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Somali toxic waste dump plan 'aborted'

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations said Wednesday an international outcry had scuttled a secret scheme by European firms to dump 10 million tonnes of toxic waste in Somalia. African and Western governments were outraged last month by media reports that a Somali government had signed a 20-year dumping contract with the companies. Somalia was already in the headlines because 4.5 million Somalis are starving as a result of famine and civil war. Mustafa Tolba, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, said a copy of a contract between two European firms and Nur Elsay Osman, who described himself as state minister for health in the interim government of self-declared President Ali Mahdi Muhammad, came into his hands about a month ago. One of the companies was Achard and Partners, a firm based in Switzerland. "The contract was for 20 years, during which period annual shipments of about 500,000 tonnes of hazardous waste were to be made from Europe to Somalia," Mr. Tolba told a meeting of Kenyan and Arab lawyers in Nairobi. "Each shipment was to have yielded a profit of \$8 to \$10 million to the exporting companies."

Kuwait says expulsions for 'lack of permit'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, responding to Red Cross concerns about deportations to Iraq, said Wednesday that those expelled had to leave the emirate because they did not have residency permits. "In Kuwait there is a law and he who does not have a legitimate permit will be... deported or expelled," Information Minister Badr Jassem Al Yaqoub told a news conference. He had been asked to respond to Jean-Paul Laroche, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) setting head of delegation for the Arabian Peninsula, about continuing expulsions of bedouins (stateless Arabs) and Palestinians. Mr. Laroche told Reuters Sunday that he could not estimate the number of expulsions but said many were deported without trial on suspicion of collaborating with Iraqi troops during Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate in 1990-91. "Kuwait always works in the light, before everybody," Mr. Yaqoub said. "Any practice that could violate or break the law will go before our judicial system." Mr. Laroche had said the ICRC was worried about long-term residents of Kuwait — often people who were born here — who were forced to leave for Iraq.

Parliament session delayed by 60 days

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday postponing the opening of the regular session of Parliament until Dec. 1, 1992. The session was scheduled to start Oct. 1.

Kuwaiti candidates in poll total 278

KUWAIT (R) — Twenty-five candidates have dropped out of Kuwait's parliamentary elections, leaving a final tally of 278 seeking 50 seats, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Wednesday. KUNA said eight candidates withdrew Wednesday, the last day they could pull out from the Oct. 5 poll. Earlier, Information Minister Badr Jassem Al Yaqoub told a news conference the new parliament would decide whether to grant more people, including women, the right to vote. Women are banned from voting and standing as candidates in the elections and only men aged 21 or over who can trace their family roots in the emirate before 1920 may cast ballots. Only 81,400 Kuwaitis — one in seven of Kuwait's 600,000 nationals — are allowed to vote.

Iran: Fuel rationing possible

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's oil minister said Wednesday that distribution of petroleum products in the country was up from last year but the possibility of rationing has not been ruled out. The statement reported by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) indicated that Iran has not fully recovered from strikes by oil workers and transportation problems that paralyzed distribution early this year. Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh said distribution of gasoline, kerosene and gas oil throughout Iran during the past six months totaled 19.9 billion litres, an increase of 700 million litres from the same period last year.

New joint Arab firm gets 2 planes

CAIRO (R) — A new \$100 million Egyptian-Kuwaiti firm, Shorouk Air, took delivery Wednesday of two Airbus 320 planes, the first of a six-aircraft fleet. Shorouk Air has four Boeing 757s, one passenger and three cargo, on order and plans to buy two more Airbus aircraft next year, company officials said. "The new company is the nucleus for a future cartel of Arab airlines able to compete with air carriers which have started in Europe, the United States and the Far East," Egyptian's Chairman Fahem Rayan said. The airline will fly cargo and passengers mainly between Egypt and Gulf states and tourists from Europe to Egypt on charters, the officials said. Cairo-based Shorouk Air, with a paid-up capital of \$40 million, is 51 per cent owned by Egypt's national flag carrier, Egyptian Airlines, while Kuwait Airways controls the rest.

S. Arabia reports talks with Yemen

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabian and Yemeni officials have started talks in Riyadh on a dispute over a potentially oil-rich border region, the official Saudi Press Agency said Wednesday. It said teams of experts from the two countries began negotiations Monday. SPA quoted an official source as saying that Saudi Arabia has proposed the formation of a joint committee to demarcate the border in accordance with an agreement signed in 1934. The committee would also seek agreement on sea and land borders not covered in the 1934 accord.

Collor will not resign — spokesman

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello will not resign, his spokesman said Wednesday, after the president suffered a crushing defeat in a congressional impeachment vote and faced an impeachment trial in the senate (see page 8). Asked on local television whether Mr. Collor might step down, spokesman Ezequiel Dias said: "No. That is a word (resignation) that has not been spoken by the president." Mr. Collor will be officially removed from office for six months as of early Thursday.

2 merchants plead guilty, deputies enter innocent plea in Al Nafeer case

'Third and fourth defendants say objective was struggle against Israel not subversion in Jordan'

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The open trial of the "Al Nafeer" case at the State Security Court entered its second day Wednesday with two of the accused pleading guilty to charges that they belonged to an illegal group and possessed weapons and explosives, but saying that they did not aim to topple the regime nor to "launch subversive operations" in Jordan. While pleading guilty to belonging to the "Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami" group, merchants Ahmad Ayoubi and Abdul Hamid Idkadek told the court that their objective was "armed struggle" against the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories. Deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash both pleaded guilty to all charges against them, which ranged from belonging to Al Nafeer, plotting to overthrow the regime, undermining Iraqi-Jordanian relations, and slandering His Majesty the King and Parliament members. Mr. Shbeilat is charged with seven counts, Deputy Qarrash was charged with five, and the two others with three.

The guilty plea of the third and fourth defendants came after a long debate between the defence and prosecution on the jurisdiction of the State Security Court and the legality of investigations conducted by the General Intelligence Department (GID) and other technical agencies. "The aim of the group is to work inside the occupied territories," Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkadek separately told the court, presided over by Lieutenant-Colonel Youssef Faouri. Mr. Ayoubi described the group as an organisation of "armed struggle" against Israeli occupation. The two defendants, owners of a shop in Jabal Hussein called "The World of Mirrors and Frames," told the court that the weapons were given to them by Deputy Qarrash for "safekeeping," and that they did not know what that purpose of these weapons were. As Mr. Idkadek said that Sheikh Qarrash was the "leader of the organisation," the quiet Sufi deputy's face appeared to turn pale at the statement. The attorney of Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkadek, Marwan Al Kayed stated that his two clients pleaded guilty to possessing arms and explosives, but that "these weapons were not intended to be used inside the country," and that "Al Nafeer" did not intend to topple the regime. Judge Faouri, who heads a panel of three military judges, said that the "court does not see that the statements made by Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkadek constitute testimonies or confessions" since they were not cross-examined and therefore did not accept the statements as such in Wednesday's court hearing. Lawyers also said that the statements made by the last two defendants were different from those they made during the investigations, and that all their statements will be discussed in the course of the trial, which was adjourned until Monday morning. Mr. Shbeilat's chief lawyer

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No separate Syrian-Israeli deal in the works — Arafat

CAIRO (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat says Syria has promised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — not to undermine the Palestinians by signing a separate peace with Israel. The PLO chairman also urged in an interview published Wednesday that the United States and Russia put pressure on Israel to be more positive in peace talks. "The Israeli rejection of Syria's demand that it get back all of the Golan Heights," he said. "The only apparent obstacle was Israel's rejection of Syria's demand that it get back all of the Golan Heights."

Israel making progress on the road to a solution. It is absurd to be afraid of the achievements of our Syrian colleagues," Nabli Shaath, one of the PLO figures directing Palestinian negotiators in talks with Israel, told reporters at Cairo airport. In Wednesday's interview Mr. Arafat, who left Cairo Tuesday after a three-day visit, accused Israel of seeking to sow discord among the Arabs. Dr. Shaath said: "We see that any achievement on the Syrian front and a declaration of Israel's willingness to withdraw from the Golan as a gain for the Palestinians." He said Israel's acceptance that U.N. Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace, applied to the Golan Heights. "We have no fears of Syria and...

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Iran accuses UAE of 'abusing goodwill,' hopes for new talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran Wednesday accused the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of abusing its "goodwill" in a dispute over three strategic islands in the Gulf but said it was still open to a peaceful solution. Negotiations broke off Monday night after Iran refused to expand discussions on Abu Musa Island to include the nearby Greater and Lesser Tunbs. Iran has claimed sole sovereignty of Abu Musa after sharing it with the UAE emirate of Sharjah since 1971, when it occupied the island and also took the Tunbs by force from Ras Al Khaima, another emirate which joined the UAE that year. The three islands are strategically located in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the region that provides about 20 per cent of the world's petroleum. The controversy began earlier this year with reports that Iran was expelling Arab residents of the UAE side of Abu Musa. The three days of talks were anxiously watched in the Arab World because of fears of Iranian expansionism. Tehran has claimed the dispute was engineered by the United States to create such fears among its Arab neighbours. An Iranian Foreign Ministry

statement said Iran had gone into the talks because of the importance it attaches "to preservation and expansion of friendly ties with neighbouring countries and to the stability of the region." The statement, reported by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), said Tehran wanted "to remove the misunderstanding created between the Sharjah ruler and the Iranian authorities on Abu Musa Island since the emergence of the issue related to non-Sharjah residents of Abu Musa." "But unfortunately... the UAE side, by raising imprincipled issues irrelevant to the questions on Abu Musa and through abusing the goodwill and tolerance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stopped the process of the negotiations," the statement said. It said Iran believes the UAE move "is against the interest of bilateral relations" and that "any territorial claim in the region can lead to a series of fresh claims and differences which would have detrimental consequences for the security of the region and would solely meet the desires of the foreigners." The Foreign Ministry said it was still prepared to continue the negotiations and "to settle the issue on the basis of respect for

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Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir, accompanied by His Majesty King Hussein, inspects a guard of honour upon his arrival in Amman Wednesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Albas)

Sudanese leader visits Jordan to convey good wishes to King

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sudanese head of state Omar Hassan Al Bashir paid a brief visit to Jordan Tuesday to personally congratulate His Majesty King Hussein on the successful surgery he underwent last month and to wish him continued good health. "We came here carrying the happy sentiments of the Sudanese people over His Majesty's safe return home" after the surgery in the United States, Lieutenant-General Bashir told reporters at Marka airport. "We in Sudan were closely following up on the King's health situation and we are most happy that His Majesty has made a full recovery," said Gen. Bashir after welcome ceremonies at the airport attended by the King, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Shariq Zeid Ben Shaker and other senior officials. "We prayed to God for His Majesty's good health and to protect him. The Arab World needs him and his leadership and statesmanship at this critical juncture that the Arabs are passing through," said the Sudanese leader, with the King sitting at his side. Gen. Bashir, wearing the traditional Sudanese flowing robes and headdress, said in answer to a question that his government was determined to pursue a "political solution" to the civil strife in the south of the country despite recent military gains. He described the southern rebels grouped under the Sudanese people's Liberation Army (SPLA) as "intransigent." He said the Sudanese army had made "a lot of victories" and that the government was in a "better and stronger position to end the conflict through the military option."

But "we do have a peace programme under way." "We realise that it was a political issue from the very beginning and we are determined to resolve it through political means," added the general, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, which took power after toppling the government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi in 1989. The Khartoum government is following a two-pronged approach to the conflict, experts on Sudan noted. On the one hand it is pursuing a strong military campaign to dislodge the rebels from key towns and areas in the south and on the other it has engaged the SPLA in peace talks which began in the Nigerian capital of Abuja four months ago. Gen. Bashir said there was "nothing new" in the standoff between Sudan and Egypt over their conflicting territorial claims to the border area of Halaib. Reports from Cairo and Khartoum indicate very little movement in efforts to end the crisis through a joint committee, which held a meeting in April this year. Following the welcome ceremony at the airport, the King drove Gen. Bashir to the Hashemiyeh Palace, where they held talks on bilateral relations. "It is not a political visit," said a palace official. "Gen. Bashir wished to personally convey his best wishes and greetings to the King and hence the visit. There is no political issue involved at all." Gen. Bashir, who was accompanied by Brigadier Abdul Rahim Hussein, secretary general of the leadership council in Khartoum, and Awad Ahmad Aljazi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, flew here from Port Sudan and returned to Khartoum.

Gunmen's threats force aid agencies to quit Somali port

MOGADISHU (R) — Relief agencies said Wednesday they were evacuating staff from the southern Somali port of Kismayu after constant threats by gunmen trying to loot food meant for the starving. "The very people who are supposed to be protecting relief staff are holding guns on them," said a top U.N. official. The official said planes were being flown into Kismayu, 450 kilometres south of Mogadishu, to pull out all U.N. foreign staff and personnel from other independent relief organisations. Aid workers had been blockaded in a U.N. compound as virtual hostages since Monday by their own Somali guards because of several disputes involving money, U.N. sources said. Details of the dispute were not immediately known. "It's institutionalised extortion," said an official of the British charity Oxfam, which is suspending a vital project to grow and distribute seeds to farmers made destitute by civil war in the southern region. "About 15,000 malnourished children are being fed at Kismayu by aid agencies such as the International Red Cross and world concern and aid workers say efforts have to be stepped up quickly to stop children dying."

Some of the worst starvation in the country, where some two million people are in immediate danger of dying, is taking place in the south inland from Kismayu, aid workers say. A U.N. ship loaded with 3,000 tonnes of cereals has not been able to dock in Kismayu since last week due to quarrels between rival clans over who should get the contract to unload the food.

Fateh urges world intervention to help Palestinian detainees

AMMAN (Petra) — Fateh, the mainstream faction within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Wednesday appealed to the world community to help end the ordeal of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. It said that Palestinian leaders were being tortured in Israeli jails and their lives were in danger. She appealed to international and human rights organisations to intervene and save the lives of the detainees. Mrs. Wazir said the occupation authorities were disregarding humanitarian efforts aimed at saving the lives of the Palestinian detainees. The detainees appeal to the world community to ensure the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in occupied territories and call on world organisations to ensure the release of sick detainees and those who have spent 23 years in jail. Mrs. Wazir said that the prisoners were protesting harsh conditions and

torture in Israeli jails. A group of women, family members of the prisoners, began a sit-in strike Monday at the Red Crescent offices in Nablus to show solidarity with the detainees. Mrs. Wazir said that Palestinian leaders were being tortured in Israeli jails and their lives were in danger. She appealed to international and human rights organisations to intervene and save the lives of the detainees. The detainees appeal to the world community to ensure the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in occupied territories and call on world organisations to ensure the release of sick detainees and those who have spent 23 years in jail. Mrs. Wazir said that the prisoners were protesting harsh conditions and

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West wants Iraqi assets seized if no deal on oil

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Western powers are expected to push for adoption of a Security Council resolution next week on seizing some of Iraq's frozen assets overseas, despite apparent willingness from Baghdad to negotiate issues that provoked the action, according to diplomats. However, the envoys said some nations on the council might be reluctant to approve the resolution if Iraq actually resumes talks with the United Nations on oil sales. But the United States, Britain and France are expected to argue that the seizure of assets would be called off once an oil deal had actually materialised. Therefore, they say the assets resolution should be adopted quickly to put pressure on Bag-

dad to sell oil. The U.S.-initiated draft resolution on assets would produce anywhere from \$300 to \$1 billion to compensate victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and pay for relief aid Iraqis receive from the United Nations to offset the effects of economic sanctions. The United States is expressing doubt that Iraq was ready to comply with U.N. demands that would forestall the resolution. But it said if Iraq was serious about cooperating, it could begin by granting visas to humanitarian workers needed to bring aid to Kurds and other Iraqis before the onset of winter. "We've seen statements from the Iraqis that either they're willing to permit the international relief effort to go forward or to

Under The Patronage Of H.R.H. PRINCESS ALIA BINT AL HUSSEIN

An important auction will be held in cooperation with the Society for Development and Rehabilitation of Country Women. A unique collection of Persian carpets, Oriental and European works of art at the Philadelphia Hotel Inauguration: Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. Auction: Wednesday Oct 7 at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Guest of honour: The Egyptian expert Saad Al Masri. Interested persons who wish to exhibit, please call tel. 612610/638031

Judge says CIA paper show that BNC-Rome knew of Iraq scam

ATLANTA (AP) — A federal judge said Tuesday he was supplied with classified documents that reveal top officials of an Italian bank knew the bank's Atlanta branch secretly made \$5.5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq.

Christopher Drogoul, the fired Atlanta branch manager for Italy's government-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), has pleaded guilty to making the loans. He testified Tuesday that his first dealings with Iraq were approved by his superiors.

Judge Marvin Shoob said classified Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) documents supplied to him support Mr. Drogoul's statements.

Mr. Drogoul, whose sentencing hearing entered its third week Tuesday, was indicted last week on 347 counts of bank fraud and pleaded guilty in June to 60 counts.

Mr. Shoob said the CIA reports were supplied at his request by federal prosecutors.

Mr. Shoob said three of the reports indicate the Rome bank knew of the loans.

Prosecutors argued the reports were provided in confidence and should not be considered as evidence. They also resisted Mr. Shoob's request that they secure government approval for him to release the reports to Mr. Drogoul's attorneys.

Mr. Drogoul's attorneys have pleaded for a light sentence, arguing that BNL headquarters and the U.S. government condoned the Iraq loans. Mr. Drogoul could be sentenced to a maximum of life in prison, with \$17.5 million in fines and \$1.8 billion in restitution.

Mr. Drogoul testified Tuesday the initial deals with Iraq were through a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan guarantee programme to promote grain exports.

"We were doing business in whatever countries we could do business with," he said.

Prosecutors contend Mr. Drogoul eventually paralysed the grain deals into a hidden loan network that helped fund Iraq's military and provided kickbacks for Mr. Drogoul.

Mr. Drogoul said the BNL Atlanta office got into the export

business in the mid-1980s as the bank's conventional business began to wane. Though inexperienced at first, Mr. Drogoul said, said Atlanta branch quickly developed a niche in the area, working with such large grain traders as Continental Grain and Cargill Inc.

Working through the Agriculture Department's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), which guarantees loans for countries to buy U.S. grain exports, BNL-Atlanta cut its first \$45 million deal with Iraq's Rafidain Bank in 1985, Mr. Drogoul said.

Mr. Drogoul said he discussed the deal with Angelo Florio, head of BNL's international division in Rome.

"I mentioned the countries we were doing business with. He was agreeable," Mr. Drogoul said. "I mentioned the countries and I mentioned the amounts and he said, 'yes, yes, yes.'"

Mr. Florio's only objection was Mexico, where the bank then was having problems, Mr. Drogoul said.

Mr. Drogoul said Iraq was a major participant in the CCC programme, by 1989 getting about one-fourth of the agency's allocations. Iraq was already getting hundreds of millions of dollars a year through the programme at the time BNL-Atlanta got involved, he said.

Earlier Tuesday, a former senior BNL official said accounting irregularities were found in a 1988 audit of the Atlanta branch. But Luigi Sardelli said the problems gave no indication of the huge scandal that was to surface the following year.

Mr. Sardelli, then the New York-based North American regional manager for BNL, said the audits showed Mr. Drogoul was exceeding his authorised lending limits. But Mr. Sardelli said he had no idea Drogoul was making secret loans to Iraq.

Mr. Sardelli said he tried to inform officials at BNL headquarters in Rome of problems in the Atlanta office but was rebuffed, once being told that his own activities would be investigated. He quit the bank in 1989 rather than accept a transfer back to Rome.

Sudan criticises U.S. comment

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government Tuesday expressed regret over a recent U.S. statement protesting the execution of two employees of the U.S. foreign aid office in south Sudan.

A Foreign Ministry statement meanwhile accused the U.S. of trying to "imply that they were immune, forgetting that all Sudanese citizens are equal before the Sudanese law irrespective of their employer."

It was alluding to a statement by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen during a hearing Wednesday in Washington.

"I'm very pessimistic about Sudan. I think a very nasty government there has decided to eliminate all opposition through extreme repression and in the south they're following a policy of forced Islamisation and to a certain extent ethnic cleansing similar to what we're seeing in Yugoslavia..." Mr. Cohen said.

"I'm really worried, deeply worried for the people in the south of Sudan under the current government."

"We just suffered the tragic deaths of two U.S. government employees, Sudanese citizens who worked for aid. They were involved with disaster relief. They were involved with bringing aid to suffering people and they were executed for alleged crimes of treason..." Mr. Cohen added.

He said his department is continuing to communicate with the U.S. embassy in Khartoum by radio. "And I think these nasty people there consider that to be treason of some sort. So I'm really very, very upset about what's going on there right now."

The ministry said Mr. Cohen's statement is a "move to incite hatred against Sudan."

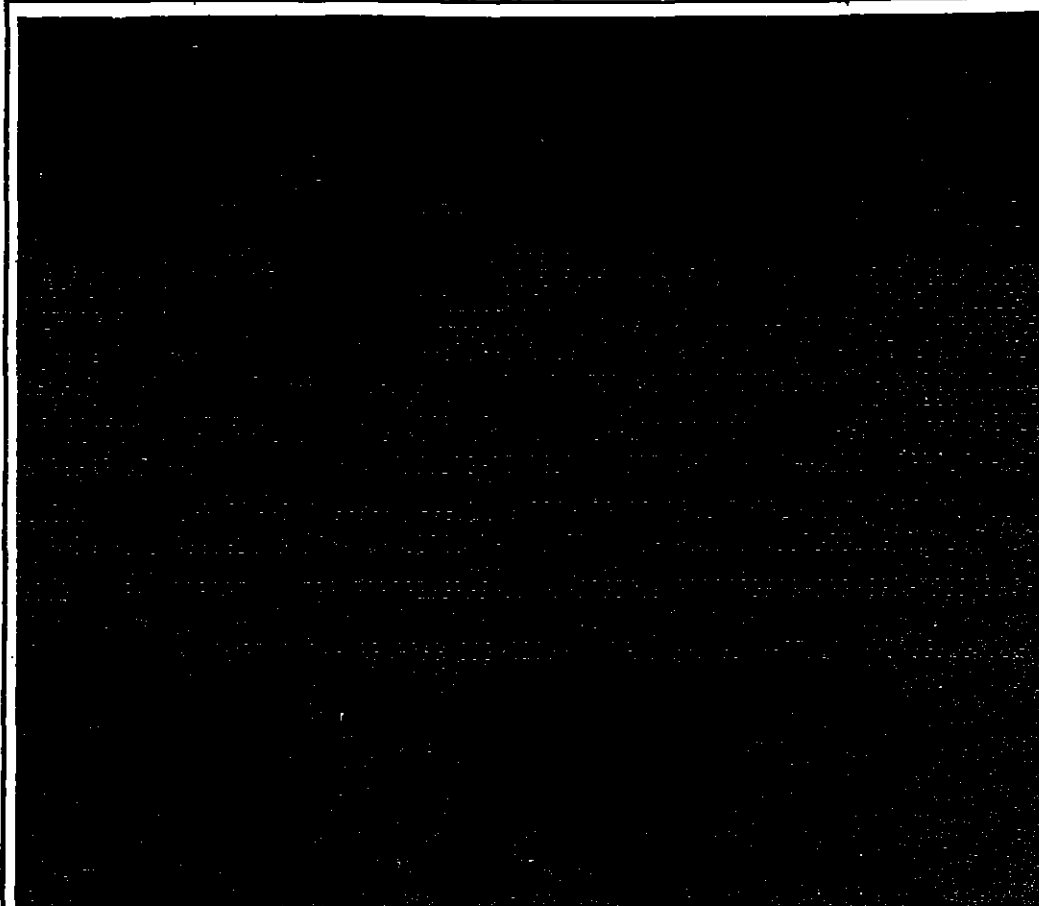
Last Wednesday, the U.S. State Department confirmed the death of Andrew Tombe, 34, an employee of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) office in Juba. He reportedly was found guilty of treason by a military tribunal and executed.

The U.S. is "well aware that the Sudanese national (Tombe) exploited his presence in the USAID office in Juba and used the facilities of that office" to coordinate with the rebels and supply them with information which they used in attacking the besieged city, the Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry did not refer to the other Sudanese who Mr. Cohen said was executed.

"Cohen who made himself a champion of human rights in Africa, accusing others of violation of those rights, should have condemned the behaviour of this Sudanese citizen who has betrayed his country," the ministry said.

It said Mr. Tombe was given a fair trial and that Mr. Cohen's statement was a reflection of his known and open hostility towards Sudan's Islamic leanings.



S. LEBANON BATTLE: Israeli soldiers approach the bodies of two resistance fighters killed in a clash with them in South Lebanon Tuesday.

Afghans face tough winter without wheat, U.N. says

MAZAR-e-SHARIF, Afghanistan, (R) — Afghanistan could face famine this winter as it tries to feed a million returning refugees and thousands displaced by recent fighting with scant international aid and empty grain silos, U.N. officials say.

"We could be facing an emergency food situation unless help is given soon," Philippe Labrevue, acting head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in northern Afghanistan, said in an interview Monday.

"The international community has done little to help Afghanistan for the last decade. It's time for them to act now before it's too late."

As many as 300,000 refugees have returned from camps in Pakistan to their homes in the north, many without wheat supplies or livestock, he said.

The UNHCR estimates a total of 1.1 million Afghans have gone back from Pakistan this year. A further 300,000 have returned from Iran.

An exodus of about one third of Kabul's 1.5 million people amid heavy fighting in the capital last month has exacerbated the difficulties of feeding Afghanistan during its harsh winter, when most of the country disappears under a blanket of snow.

"For the first year, none of the five silos in Afghanistan has any wheat at all," Mr. Labrevue said. "In the past we received wheat from these silos but today there's nothing."

To add to the difficulties, the north has produced a poor harvest this year because farmers were hindered by fighting as the previous communist government

collapsed, he said.

They were also troubled by pests, a lack of seed, the disintegration of agricultural services and the banking system and floods in the north.

The price of wheat has nearly doubled since July and is likely to rise further.

"What's the point of waiting for a situation like Somalia?" said Mr. Labrevue. "Obviously it's not going to be that bad, but we could have an emergency situation by the end of the winter."

In June, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali appealed for \$180 million in international aid for Afghanistan. Donations of just over \$40 million have been received so far.

The World Food Programme and local councils are distributing supplies to some of the estimated 85,000 Kabul residents who have reached Mazar-e-Sharif.

"Many are staying in private homes and cannot be found for food donations. Others have taken shelter in schools where the United Nations have been distributing bread."

Those who do not receive food are given about 200 (about 20 U.S. cents) a day. If the schools reopen they will have to spend the winter outside and will need tents, blankets and fuel.

Most of those displaced from Kabul are expected to stay until early next year when the snows melt in the spring.

"We will only go back if we are sure there is peace," said elderly Abdul Wasir, sharing a tiny room in a school with his wife and son and another family of eight.

"I lost my three nephews when a rocket hit my house," he said. "Everything was burnt."

Iraq, hit by sanctions, reuses syringes

BAGHDAD (R) — Beware of getting an injection in Iraq: The syringe may already have been used by another patient.

Health officials say U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait, coupled with destruction of Iraq's main syringe plant, have forced them to reuse syringes and steel needles even though this may expose patients to disease and infections.

"In view of the chronic shortages in disposable syringes, we have turned to the traditional method of disinfecting by boiling water," Iraq's Health Ministry Under-Secretary Sharaf Marqus told Reuters.

"We realise that this method is unsafe, leading to a high incidence of infectious diseases, but what else can we do?" he asked.

He said he had twice issued advisories against reusing syringes but added: "When there is no supervision, when the need is there, everything is possible."

He said Iraq had a modern syringe manufacturing plant, at Hilla 100 kilometres south of Baghdad, but it was destroyed by allied bombing during the Gulf war.

"Iraq needs 30-40 million syringes a year. What we have received in the past two years in a drop in the ocean," Dr. Marqus said.

U.N. specialised agencies in Iraq confirmed the shortage of syringes and other critical medical supplies, such as tubes needed for glucose drips.

Dr. Izziddin Zarwa, medical coordinator for the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), said his agency alone had supplied Iraq with more than 10 million syringes in two years and had ordered eight million more.

He said the use of syringes to treat more than one patient "would lead to very, very serious health problems, carrying dangerous diseases and microbes, like AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), from one person to another."

Dr. Marqus said Iraq was the victim of a "health war" and that 178,000 people had died as a result of food and medical shortages. Of those, 116,000 were under the age of five, he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE introduces death penalty for drug traffickers

ABU DHABI (AP) — Confronted with a growing drug problem, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is to introduce the death penalty for drug traffickers, the official news agency Wam reported Tuesday. A top official of the Justice Ministry told the agency that the ministry will be amending the previous law against drug dealers to enforce the death penalty. "The amendment is due to the country's keenness to contribute positively and effectively to the global campaign against drugs and to counter this destructive blight which endangers the lives of youth throughout the world," said ministry undersecretary Sultan Saeed Al Badi. Saudi Arabia has assiduously beheaded drug dealers and traffickers since the mid-1980s. The UAE, especially the emirate of Dubai, is as a transit point for drugs moving from Asia and Africa to Europe and the United States. Recently, authorities in Dubai seized 87 kilograms of heroin worth \$11.9 million at current market prices, the biggest single haul in the country's history. Commander-in-chief of Dubai police, Dhahi Khalifa Tamim, while disclosing the seizure, recommended the death penalty as an effective deterrent.

Uzbek president to visit Iran next month

NICOSIA (R) — Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov will make an official visit to Iran in mid-October, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tuesday. Mr. Velayati, seeing off Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaidullah Abdulrazakov, was quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency as saying Uzbek delegations would travel to Tehran to prepare cooperation agreements to be signed during Mr. Karimov's visit. President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, meeting Mr. Abdulrazakov on Tuesday, said Iran welcomed expansion of relations with Uzbekistan and other Central Asian republics, Tehran Radio said.

Turkey restricts exodus of Bulgarian Turks

SOFIA (R) — Turkey has imposed travel restrictions on visitors from Bulgaria in an attempt to stop a mass influx of Bulgarian ethnic Turks, Bulgarian Foreign Ministry Officials said Tuesday. They said Sofia had received no advanced warning of the move and would be seeking further clarification. "The ministry finds the procedure unacceptable since it concerns bilateral relations such as movements of citizens between both countries," a foreign ministry spokesman said. He said the Bulgarian consul-general in the Turkish border town of Edirne was notified of the new restrictions Monday by the local Turkish border security chief. From now on Bulgarians must have \$70 for each day they plan to visit Turkey, or \$30 if they are in a tourist group. Those visiting relatives must present a written pledge from their hosts guaranteeing that they will return to Bulgaria.

Overcrowded Sudanese prisons release detainees

KHARTOUM (AP) — Chief Justice Jalal Ali Lutfi has ordered the release of over 160 prisoners, mostly females, from overcrowded Omdurman prisons, the state-run Sudan Television reported. The prison, which is designed to hold 40 inmates, presently hosts 2896, according to Lutfi, who was paying a visit to the prison. Mr. Lutfi was shown speaking to a gathering at the female inmates section, with the imprisoned women shouting "Allahu Akbar... la ilaha illa Allah". Mr. Lutfi ordered the release of 157 women, who either served more than half their terms, accompanying babies, imprisoned for the first time or underage girls. Six handicapped men were also ordered released. Lutfi decreed the release of another 15 men and six women after paying by the state of diyas (blood money) of a million Sudanese pounds for the men and half a million pound for the women (a diya is imposed in case of murder or causing loss of a limb). The releases were made as part of a move to cut down the number of inmates in the prison, according to Justice Minister Abdullah Idris, who accompanied the chief justice-official visit to the prison.

Iran to replace older oil tankers

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of the national Iranian tanker company said Tuesday the company will be replacing its older oil tankers with new ones over the next five years, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The official, Mohammad Suri, did not say how many tankers would be replaced nor give a source or cost estimate. He told IRNA that Iran's tanker fleet was one of the largest in the world, with 29 oil tankers and a capacity of 5.6 million tonnes, or almost 40 million barrels. It also operates 32 vessels for servicing the tankers, Mr. Suri said.

Egyptian ambassador wounded on street

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — A Mozambican newspaper reported Tuesday that Egypt's ambassador to Mozambique was shot on a major street in this capital city. The Noticias newspaper, citing a police source, said Ambassador Mohammad Abdul sustained a shoulder wound and his briefcase containing documents and money was stolen in the Sunday night attack. Mr. Abdul reportedly was treated at Maputo central hospital and released. According to the police source, a lone gunman approached Mr. Abdul and another embassy official on Julius Nyerere avenue, one of Maputo's main streets, and demanded Mr. Abdul hand over the briefcase. When Mr. Abdul refused, the gunman shot him and grabbed the briefcase, then ran to a waiting car that drove away, the police source told Noticias.

Turkey to host Central Asian summit

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, cementing its ties with ex-Soviet Muslim republics, is inviting their leaders to attend a summit meeting in Istanbul in late October. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel told Reuters Tuesday that the presidents of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan would be asked to come. He said the president of the troubled Republic of Tajikistan would also be invited "if it settles down there." Mr. Demirel said he planned to visit Pakistan and Iran, which are also trying to expand their links with the young Muslim republics on their borders, from Oct. 23 to 24. A summit meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), which groups Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and five ex-Soviet states, would follow at an unspecified date, he added.



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Circus
18:30 Maggy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:50 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Uncle Buck
21:10 Civil Wars
22:00 News in English
22:30 "Miles from Nowhere"

PRAYER TIMES

05:08 Fajr
06:23 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:06 Dhuhr
15:49 'Asr
18:27 Maghrib
19:44 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
622785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
627440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

625541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772651.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel.
827961, 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

811255.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

It will be dusty at times and winds
will be easterly moderate to fresh. In
Amman, winds will be northerly fresh
and seas choppy.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 15 / 30
Aqaba 20 / 35
Dahmani 22 / 31
Jordan Valley 20 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman
30, Aqaba 34, Thursday readings:
Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 20 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:
Dr. Ghazi Jassbi 752485
Dr. Muhammad A'ash 752971
Dr. Jaouh Maraga 756149
Dr. Ghaleb Zawada 760111
First pharmacy 661912
First pharmacy 778336
Al Amman pharmacy 670255
Neirouth pharmacy 625672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simonsal pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 947632

IRRED:

Dr. Ahmad Bidawat 273925
Al Sharaa' pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khamis Jabari 995405
Razavi pharmacy 992119

KARAK:

Dr. Nidal Masana (-)
Ma'ab pharmacy 352170

SALT:

Dr. Bashir Hiri (-)
Raf's pharmacy (-)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891225
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 890390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 874767
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Human Medical Centre 813812/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642652
Mellina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664711/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 643945
Al-Musader Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665273/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771012/3
Jaffar, Al-Musader 775112/6
Al-Rasheed, J. Amn 891611/5
Army, Maraga 602240/50
Queen Alia Hospital 674155
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900540
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)997990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Green Catholic Hospital

Al-Nafes Hospital (02)271100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) Information Department
at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)

07:15 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:15 Same (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
11:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:55 Colombo (RJ)
11:55 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Aqaba, Dhahran (RJ)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
17:35 Larissa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:30 Riyadh (SU)
15:15 Istanbul (TK)
20:25 Cairo (MS)
20:35 Larissa (CY)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Tunis (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:40 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Athens (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:30 Larissa (RJ)
13:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:15 Bahrain Doha (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:45 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upstream price in fms per kg.
Apple (red) 629 / 550
Banana 500 / 430
Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Banana 400 / 350
Carrot 430 / 40
Cauliflower 400 / 350
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 180
Eggplant 80 / 40
Garlic 600 / 500
Lemon 220 / 60
Marrow (large) 180 / 120
Marrow (small) 350 / 320
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Pepper (hot) 200 / 150
Potato 150 / 100
Tomato 340 / 250
Tomato 100 / 50
Fig 360 / 300
Grape 300 / 250
Black Grape 300 / 250
Green Grape 300 / 250
Dates 550 / 400
Olive 250 / 200
Parsley 80
Spinach 320 / 250
Pomegranate 300 / 250

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Nigeria, Cyprus, China

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, congratulating him on his country's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Babangida continued good health and happiness and the Nigerian people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein sent similar cables to the Chinese and Cypriot presidents, congratulating them over their countries' national day.

Tubeishat meets Canadian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat met Wednesday with Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson and discussed with him means of enhancing Jordanian-Canadian relations, particularly in environmental fields.

Tamimi, receives head of Malaysian Islamic group

AMMAN (Petra) — Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Wednesday received President of the Islamic Da'wa Organisation in Malaysia Ahmad Ben Abdul Wahed. Mr. Khatib and Dr. Abdul Wahed reviewed the conditions of Muslims in Malaysia and the Muslim world as well as ways of promoting Jordanian-Malaysian relations, particularly in cultural, social and religious fields.

Lebanese official to start visit to the country

AMMAN (Petra) — Lebanon's Minister of National Economy, Samir Maqdisi is due here Thursday for a several-day visit to Jordan. His talks with Jordanian government officials on the exchange of trade are expected to be concluded with the signing of a new trade agreement between Jordan and Lebanon to replace an agreement signed by the two sides in 1965. A joint Jordanian-Lebanese committee preparing for the talks said Wednesday it has already prepared the draft of the trade agreement.

Delegation ends visit to Central Asian republics

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Islamic Academy for Sciences and the permanent Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation among Islamic States returned to Amman Wednesday after a working visit to four Central Asian republics. The delegation visited Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kirgizia. Sources at the Islamic Academy for Sciences said the visits were part of the academy's effort to gather and document information on these republics which gained their independence recently. The academy hopes to build ties with similar organisations in these countries. The sources said the delegation had held talks with officials at these republics to prepare the ground for signing scientific cooperation agreements.

Salt receives gift from Japanese agency

AMMAN (Petra) — The Japanese Agency for International Cooperation has presented a tower clock for Al Salt Municipality. The 1,700-kilogramme clock will soon be installed by the municipality in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Japanese government.

Youth forum to open branch in Madaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) has decided to establish a branch in Madaba district, according to a decision by AYF general assembly. The constituent assembly of the branch held a meeting Tuesday at its temporary premises in Madaba city in the presence of AYF Secretary General Hassan Thilayan. Mr. Thilayan briefed the meeting on the goals and principles of the forum, which is headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. At the meeting, the constituent assembly elected a preparatory committee for the branch.

French trade delegation leaves for home

AMMAN (Petra) — A French economic delegation led by Mr. Michel Habib-Delecluse has ended a three-day visit to the Kingdom and left for home. The team's talks with Jordanian officials and businessmen covered means of promoting trade exchanges between Jordan and France.

Rural development committee begins meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Executive Committee of the Amman-based Regional Centre for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Near East started its meetings in Amman Wednesday. During the meeting, the committee approved the centre's internal and financial systems. Taking part in the two-day meeting are Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development Mohammad Saqr, who chairs the centre's board of directors as well as representatives of Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Pakistan and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Farmers called upon to register for development project

KARAK (Petra) — Al Karak Cooperative Machinery Station Director Michel Nasraween has called on farmers willing to include their lands in a project aimed at increasing seed production to call at the station's office in Rabba or at cooperative societies in their areas to fill their application forms. He said the period for receiving application forms to the station ends Oct. 15. Mr. Nasraween said the project, which is carried out by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, aims to supply farmers with improved wheat and barley seeds that fit the area's climatic conditions. Some 4,000 dunams out of a total of 8,000 dunams allocated for the project will be planted with wheat while the rest will be planted with barley during this agricultural season, Mr. Nasraween said. He said lots of land included in the project should be flat, clean of stones and with an area of 40-50 dunams at minimum. He said priority to join the project will be given to farmers who participate for the first time.

Fund-raising campaign cancer centre begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national campaign to raise funds for the cancer centre at the entrance of the university of Jordan and back to the sports city, Dr. Khatib added.

Proceeds from the two events will benefit the cancer centre, which will offer free treatment to cancer patients in Jordan, said Dr. Khatib, who is also executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Dr. Khatib said that Jordan television will start on Friday Oct. 9 to present special programmes to cover the campaign and its various activities. Artists and prominent personalities will appear on special television shows in order to promote the cause of setting up the centre he said.

On Oct. 9, a soccer match will be held at the Sports City in Amman and its proceeds will also go to the Al Amal Cancer Centre.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has visited the centre, which has yet to be furnished with medical and radiation equipment. The Prime Minister last week called on all Jordanians and organisations to contribute generously towards the centre.

Dr. Khatib said that the centre takes priority on the list of GUVS various programmes in view of the growing number of cancer patients in the country.

German national writes song in praise of King

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Hashemi, Hashemi) may soon have competition on the radio — a new song celebrating His Majesty King Hussein has hit the airwaves. "Jordanian Lady" is an English song written by a German national.

"Our deep love to the King, to Jordan and to its people inspired me to create something that would express my true feelings towards His Majesty," said Hans Harms, a director of a German information services company.

Harms and his Jordanian wife, Suad Khirji, came to Jordan early this month for the sole purpose of attending the festival.

ties accorded to King Hussein, following his recovery from surgery and his safe return home. "I have never seen such kind of true and cordial welcoming to any head of state," said Harms, who has participated in the celebrations of the King's return home all over the country. "The King deserves much more than anybody else for his courageous efforts, especially in the Middle East peace process," he said. The song written, composed and sung by Harms, illustrates the admiration and love that people feel towards the King. With its soft harmonious rhythm, the song gives glimpses of hope for peace and freedom in the region.

Agency to change employment procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC), which recruits employees for the government offices in Jordan announced Wednesday that it now has 82,000 job applications from Jordanian males and females wishing to work in government departments.

This year only 6239 applicants were given jobs but the number is to rise to 8,000 by the end of this year, according to CSC President Abdullah Ulayyan.

The CSC nominates candidates for job at various public offices, taking into account qualifications of the applicants and the date of applying for jobs, said Dr. Ulayyan.

But this system is soon to change with the introduction of another criteria, namely offering government departments the chance to give the applicants special tests to compete for the post, said Dr. Ulayyan.

The new system, to be enforced as of the beginning of 1993, will not totally cancel the old system but will run along side it, he said.

The whole CSC system will be revised and scrutinised with a view to helping various government departments take more responsibility in appointing their employees, Dr. Ulayyan pointed out.

Jordan, Cyprus discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour Wednesday met with the head of a visiting Cypriot trade delegation and reviewed with him economic relations between Jordan and Cyprus.

Dr. Ensour briefed the visitors on Jordan's national economy, saying that the country's central geographical location was helping it to promote its trade ties with all countries in the region, including Cyprus.

The head of the Cypriot delegation said that Cyprus-Jordan relations were very good and progressing in the economic and trade fields.

The Cypriot delegation later met with Tourism Minister Yamil Hikmat to discuss cooperation in the tourism sector. The two sides discussed a draft agreement expected to be signed by the two countries. The agreement is designed to stimulate tourist exchanges and investments in the tourism industry in the two countries.

Crown Prince to chair ATF board meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Current Arab situation, future outlooks for the Arab World as well as the role that the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF) can play to promote dialogue among Arab countries will top the agenda of discussions by ATF's board of trustees meeting opening in Amman Saturday.

An ATF statement said that the meeting, to be chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the board chairman, will discuss inter-Arab cooperation in economic and political fields.

Board members will also discuss ATF's programmes for the coming two years and the prospect of organising an international cultural seminar in Amman to December in cooperation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

It said that another seminar to be held in April would discuss human resources development in the Arab World. The seminar will be organised in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

According to the statement, the April seminar, in which scholars from Arab countries will take part, will shed light on the human resources of the Arab World with view to drawing of an Arab strategy on human resources development.

The ATF board of trustees groups a number of Jordanian and Arab personalities.

King receives well-wishers who walked across country to greet him

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received at the Royal Court a number of Jordanian youths who travelled on foot from various parts of the country to Amman to offer their congratulations to the King over his recovery from illness and safe return home.

The eight-member group had travelled from Irbid, Ajloun, Mafrak and other areas to reach the Royal Court and offer their congratulations to the King.

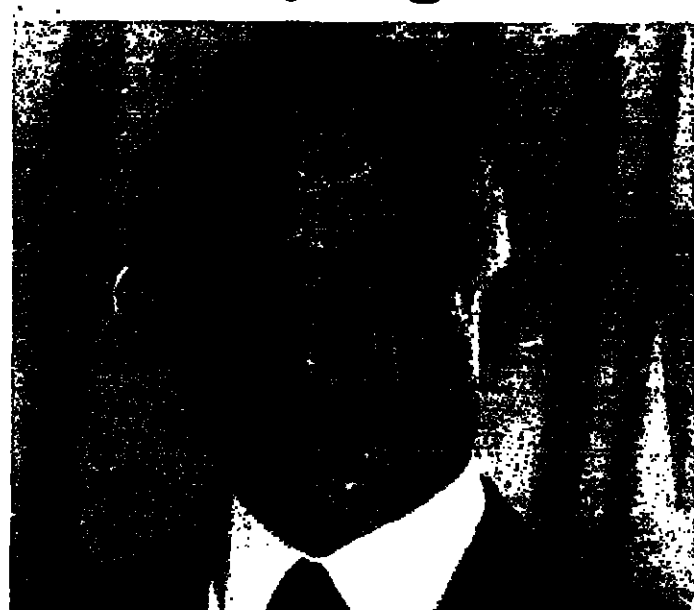
The group consisted of Turki Hawamdeh, Awad Mashaqbeh, Ali Maghri, Turki Al Mighmaz, Bassam Nasser, Ibrahim Khazaleh, Karim Al Jubur and Abdul Qader Aref.

Meanwhile, Jordanian popular singer Omar Al Abdullah, who composed a national song which was broadcast on the occasion of the King's return to Jordan, was honoured Wednesday by the Imam Schools in Amman.

Director of the Department of Education in the Amman area Ahmad Awwad attended a special school ceremony to honour the singer and delivered a speech on the occasion.

Later, he presented the singer with a token gift during the school's general celebrations held on the occasion of the King's recovery.

Elsewhere in Jordan, celebrations of the King's recovery continued Wednesday, one week after he returned to Amman after his successful surgery in the United States.



North Shneeh in the Jordan Valley region held celebrations in the main streets and public squares.

The University of Jordan held special festivals Wednesday attended by University President Fawzi Gharaibeh. Several speeches were made paying tribute to the King's endeavours that achieved the Kingdom's success in educational, social and economic fields.

The army brass bands along with a number of Jordanian folk troupes took part in the celebrations.

The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) also organised a special festival Wednesday to express joy over the King's recovery.

Amnesty pays tribute to Jordan's record, but says right of appeal should be ensured

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amnesty International (AI) Wednesday declared commitment on the trial of the Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami now under way at the State Security Court (SSC) but said the lack of the right to appeal SSC verdicts was still a "matter of concern."

Ian Martin, secretary-general of the London-based human rights organisation, said, however, that Jordan's record in respect for human rights has otherwise improved greatly over the past years and the Kingdom could be a model for the region.

"What has happened since my last visit to Jordan in March 1990, Mr. Martin told a press conference at the conclusion of a week-long visit during which he received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other senior officials. "AI welcomes Jordan's commitment to human rights in the national charter."

The charter, approved by a national conference in June last year, includes a pledge to defend human rights in the country as set out in international conventions. In November, Jordan ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

In their discussions with Mr. Martin, the Jordanian leaders reaffirmed the Kingdom's total commitment to respect for human rights and that no-one would be detained or arrested as long as he or she did not violate any of the laws of the land.

Although he reserved direct comment on the Al Nafar case involving two members of Parliament and two merchants (see page 1), Mr. Martin said the case "draws attention to the lack of the right of appeal ... and to Jordan's need to strengthen legal provisions regarding detainees."

Mr. Martin said he raised the issue in his discussions with Sharif Zeid and that the Prime Minister "indicated the government was open" to the introduction of the right to appeal and pointed out that discussion on the subject — as part of the draft law on the State Security Court — had not been completed in Parliament, he said.

Amnesty will formulate its views on the Al Nafar case after verdict has been passed, Mr. Martin said. Answering a question on the independence of SSC judges who are military officers, Mr. Martin said Amnesty does not "automatically reject military judges."

Mr. Martin underlined Amnesty's decades-old campaign against the death penalty and noted that it could be imposed by the SSC.

According to Mr. Martin, six people were executed in Jordan in 1991 and five of them did not have the right of appeal. No official comment was immediately available on Mr. Martin's assertion.

The Amnesty secretary-general welcomed the commuting of the death sentences passed on six people in the Kingdom last year.

He stressed, however, that Jordan still needs to strengthen safeguards that ensure that detainees get fair treatment and private access to lawyers and relatives.

According to Mr. Martin, there are more than 30 "political prisoners" in Jordan who were jailed when martial law prevailed in the Kingdom, between 1967 and 1992. The 1992 report of Amnesty alleges that more than 200 suspected opponents of the government, including "possible prisoners of conscience," were detained without charge, trial or judicial review in 1991.

The definition of "political prisoners" has always been controversial. Jordan has repeatedly said that it does not have "political prisoners" although some of the detainees might have had a political background but are serving terms for security crimes.

Mr. Martin paid tribute to the efforts of local human rights groups in Jordan and congratulated them on the permission they are hoping to secure to group themselves under the AI umbrella.

"The government has agreed in principle to the application but (the groups) do not have the piece of paper in hand," he said. Jordan would be the fourth country in the Middle East to have a legally registered Amnesty International branch. The first country was Tunisia, followed by Sudan — subsequently dissolved — and Algeria. According to the AI charter, branches are based from monitoring their own countries.

"The Middle East is a high priority for AI but of course human rights can only progress as fast the political conditions in other countries," Mr. Martin said.

Mr. Martin criticised Kuwait for torturing political detainees. According to an AI report, at least 80 Iraqis and Palestinians "disappeared" in custody and scores of extrajudicial executions were reported. At least 400 people were reported to have been forcibly expelled to Iraq despite fears for their safety there.

Earlier Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency Petra, reported Mr. Martin met with Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali and praised prisoner rehabilitation programmes.

On Tuesday, the AI delegation visited Irbid and outlined AI's role in the world.

WHAT'S ON

Exhibitions

Exhibition of traditional handicrafts and antique items (including embroideries, artificial flowers, tricot, costumes and agricultural products) organised by Madaba Tourism Office in cooperation with the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF), Madaba Women's Cooperative Society and Al Aqsa and Ma'ina Spa Charity societies.

Handicraft exhibition by artist Rawabi Abu Ghazaleh-Silawi at the Islamic Bank Exhibition Centre, Deir Al Rabwa.

Exhibition of small paintings by Jordanian artist Ali Al Ghazal at Baladina Art Gallery.

Theatre
Arabic children's play entitled "Jaha and the Donkey" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

The issuing of a new JD10 and JD5 Banknotes.

As of the 1st of October 1992, the Central Bank of Jordan will put into circulation two denominations from the 3rd series, (JD10) and (JD5) banknotes, in conformity with the law of the Central Bank of Jordan and the Bylaw of the Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (28) year 1992.

The new notes will circulate alongside the existing 2nd issue notes and both shall simultaneously remain in circulation as legal tender.

Following are the specifications of the banknotes:

SPECIFICATIONS

Colour	Size	Back design
JD 10 Purple	74mmx149mm	A view of Al Babad Castle
JD 5 Red	70mmx143mm	The Treasury at Petra

- The new issue banknote designs bear a new Portrait of His Majesty King Hussein.
- The banknote paper will incorporate a new watermark of His Majesty King Hussein.
- The JD 10 will incorporate a silver windowed thread, which appears as silver dashes on the front of the note or as a solid line when held up to the light.
- The JD 5 will incorporate a microprinted thread reading Central Bank of Jordan.

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO. LTD. AMMAN - JORDAN TENDER INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND BIDDING TENDER/5/92

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces tender invitation No. 592 for the supply, erection and commissioning of the requirements for Aqaba South Petroleum Installations Project which shall include building of eight crude oil and products storage tanks with a total capacity of (180,000 cubic metres), two spherical or equal storage tanks for LPG with a total capacity of (6,000 cubic metres), one fire fighting water tank with a total capacity of (5,000 cubic metres) and accompanying facilities including steam boilers, ships unloading and loading as well as trucks loading facilities, roads, yards, offices, workshops and all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the installations.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 19/10/1992, at the company's head office.

Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor, (financial references are to be provided).
2. Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available. Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the First Circle - Jabal Amman, against non-refundable JD (200) per set not later than Thursday 29/10/1992.

Offers should be submitted only by the qualified contractors at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 18/11/1993.

Chairman Board of Directors



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Food from insects

By Emmanuel Thévenaz

PARIS — The inhabitants of Western countries feel strong aversion to the idea of eating insects. Yet, in the Bible, Moses recommends the Hebrews to "eat locusts, crickets and grasshoppers." The New Testament even recounts that John the Baptist survived in the desert feeding on locusts and wild honey alone.

On other continents, such aversion is far from being widespread. In Southern Africa, in summer, large quantities of caterpillars, also known as "Mopania worms" after the name of the tree on which a moth lays hundreds of eggs, are harvested. After being exposed in the sun, the caterpillars are stored and preserved for the dry season when they are used as part of everyday food.

In certain ethnic groups, insects are considered as refined food. In Africa, on the banks of Lake Victoria, the fisherman's turn of a variety of fly, which tastes rather like caviar, is a delicacy. In Bogota, Colombia, hawkers sell tasty fried ants. In Bali, lightly fried moths and flies are considered as dainties. The inhabi-

tants of Thailand prefer boiled praying mantis whose smell is said to resemble shrimp or mushroom paste.

Supermarket

In addition to their gastronomic value, fly, crickets, marinated moths or fried butterflies are among the dishes with the highest protein content. According to specialists, locusts contain between 50 per cent and 75 per cent of protein, and spiders and fly chrysalids more than 60 per cent. Meat does not have such a high content. Chicken only has 23 per cent and pork 17 per cent. According to research carried out by the American Roy Smelling, a termite contains proportionally double the amount of protein in a prime steak. Only flour, obtained from oil-producing seed, contains similar ratios. However, their coefficient of protein efficiency, which determines the richness and variety of the amino acids in a protein, is considerably lower than with insects.

Insects form the most diversified group in the animal kingdom, with more than one million species. They are also



Insects could provide an important source of protein in countries suffering from endemic malnutrition.

the most widespread species thanks to their extraordinary capacity for reproduction. A single colony of termites can contain between 10,000 and 3 million individuals. Similarly, a cloud of locusts, covering an area of 1,500 square kilometres contains 400 billion specimens, which represent nearly 100,000 tonnes of edible protein. In the space of one season, a single couple of flies gives birth to billions of individuals, most of which, fortunately, die as victims of diseases, predators or insecticides. But there are enough left to spread a number of parasitic diseases and to wipe out crops.

Professor Acheng Qanyago, from the University of Kampala, in Uganda, has presented a project to turn sewage tanks into industrial insect breeding farms. The climatic conditions inside these tanks bring about the decomposition of the organic matter needed for the development of the larvae. In the United States, scientists have calculated that a well run fly breeding farm could produce 800 gross tonnes of maggots (or fly larvae) a year per hectare, that is to say 363

Book reviews

Fear of the domino

The Kurds: A Contemporary Overview
Edited by Philip G. Kreyenbroek and Stefan Sperl
Routledge, London 1991, £35

THE Halabja massacre and the sufferings of Iraqi Kurds in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War have stimulated world awareness of the Kurds as a people and of the problems they face. This has led to a marked expansion in the published literature about the Kurdish question, the latest works including the three reviewed in MEI 425 by David McDowall, and the Kurds: A Contemporary Overview, to which McDowall is one of the contributors.

Perhaps the central reason why the Kurds have still not realised self-determination is their division between a number of neighbouring states, in each of which they are a minority. This makes a pooling of resources and the formation of a common strategy next to impossible. Paradoxically, it has been the leading Kurdish organisation in Turkey, where the Kurds face a formidable government army and centralised state, that has called for independence, while those in Iran and Iraq, where the balance of power has often seemed more favourable to the Kurds, have opted for the more limited goal of autonomy.

Sami Zubeida, in his introduction, argues that an independent Kurdistan "is only imaginable under conditions of the simultaneous weakness, nay near collapse, of all three states of Iraq, Iran and Turkey," and even then, it would need great power support.

Is this really the case? The fear which haunts each state where the major Kurdish communities live is of a domino effect. Gains made by Kurds in one state might encourage their cousins in the neighbouring states in the pursuit of their own demands, and there is the suspicion that the realisation of any genuine form of autonomy in one state will merely prove to be a stepping stone to independence. Should a Kurdish state emerge by secession from one of the Middle Eastern states, the accession of the other Kurdish regions to it could only be a matter of time. However fierce their antagonisms have been, fear of this process has tended to create a community of interests between Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria, as far as the Kurds are concerned. However, it is surely more likely that, at some point, shifting interests and alliances will allow the Kurds to make the crucial initial breakthrough in one state than that there should ever be the conditions for a simultaneous breakthrough in a number of states.

In the long run, if the states with the largest Kurdish minorities wish to have a choice of maintaining their territorial integrity, their best option, as one contributor suggests, would be to democratise and make a serious effort to accommodate Kurdish demands.

The Kurds is a compilation of articles, and has some of the unevenness and repetition that inevitably goes with this format. Nevertheless, it makes a good stab at presenting a concise overview, covering less well-known topics such as the experience of the Kurds of the Soviet Union and Syria, as well as the better known Turkish, Iranian and Iraqi Kurds — Middle East International.

John Gee

Man versus computer

By Tom Porteous

LONDON — Professor Jonathan Schaeffer looks impatiently, almost pleadingly, at Chinook. It is a look of encouragement of the kind parents reserve for their children. But while Chinook is Professor Schaeffer's creation, it is no human offspring. Chinook is, in fact, a computer, the most powerful checker playing computer in the world, to be precise. Now, amid great tension, Chinook is being put to the biggest test he has ever faced in his three-year career.

The scene is the Park Lane Hotel in London at the World Checkers Championship. Chinook, the challenger for the world title, has been analysing its options for over 15 minutes, working out the implications of over three million possible positions per minute, "thinking" up to forty moves ahead. Most of this "thinking" is going on in a two metre-high ray box with a panel of flashing yellow lights. The only sound is a steady whirring noise from the ventilation, which keeps the computer's brain from overheating.

Chinook's opponent, a mere mortal, shows no sign of getting steamed up. A florid mathematician and art-tutor minister at the Church of Christ, Dr. Marion Tinsley sits opposite Chinook's terminal, the wooden checkers board laid out between them. Dr. Tinsley's ostentatious gestures during the five-hour game — st one of forty which make up this contest between Chinook and Dr. Tinsley — are take a sip of water, to wipe his lips with the side of his hand, or to press a thumb gently against his temple.

There is a brief flurry of moves, projected onto the video screen for the benefit of the small audience, and then the two contestants lose back into the deep attitudes of human and electro-analysis which has characterised most of the game. "These have been hard times," says Dr. Tinsley in a flat American drawl after beating Chinook to yet another — the fourteenth — draw after five hours of play. "Most of our endings have been as deep as the ocean." Anyone who has ever played checkers — and over 180 million amateur checkers players have been identified worldwide — will recognise the aptness of Dr. Tinsley's metaphor. Victory in check-

being able to go "more deeply" into the game than the opponent; in other words, to be able to think more moves ahead. Most of us begin to get lost at a depth of three or four moves ahead. Dr. Tinsley can go a lot "deeper." This is what has made him the world checkers champion. Effectively he has dominated the game for almost four decades.

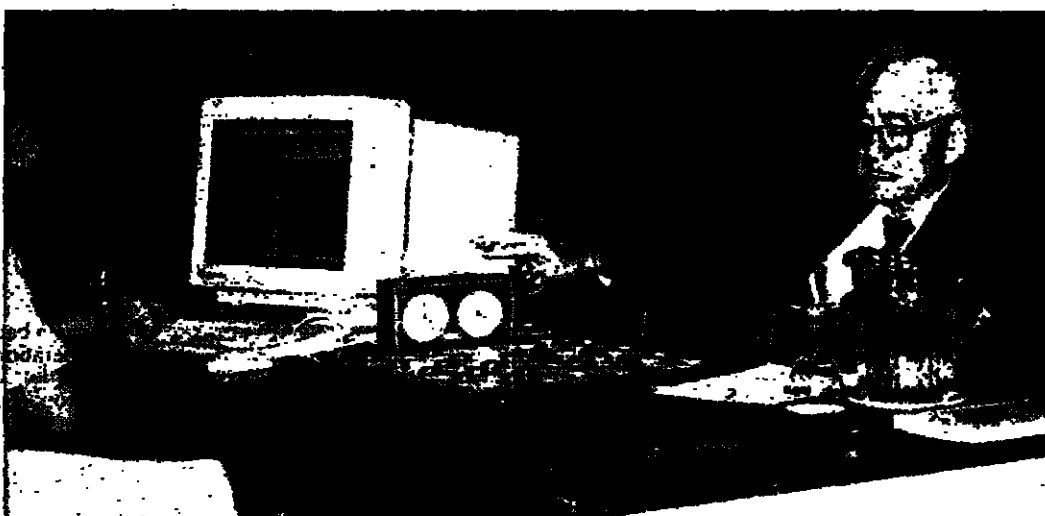
Born in Irontown, Ohio in 1924 it was, says Dr. Tinsley, an all too human sense of competition which first kindled his fascination with checkers. As a boy, he used to play regularly with an old lady who lodged in his family's house, and he remembers being infuriated by her uncanny knack of winning game after game. Dr. Tinsley beams a modest, wistful smile at the memory of that time way back in the mid-west of the 1930s.

Dr. Tinsley's checkers career took off when, aged 15, he was browsing in his local public library and came across some books on the subject. Soon he was addicted to the intellectual demands, the competitive spirit, the elegance and what he describes as the beauty of the game. It may only be a game, but nonetheless it answers many needs of the human spirit, says the quietly spoken American.

From the 1930s onwards, Dr. Tinsley's checker game developed hand in hand with his education as a mathematician. His enthusiasm for checkers was at least partly responsible, he says, for bringing out the talents which were to earn him a living as an academic mathematician. Those talents include a prodigious memory and exceptional powers of concentration and analytical logic. He has also acquired in the course of his life a deep faith in God.

Dr. Tinsley rose fast in the checkers league to win the world title in 1955. He then successfully defended it in 1958 before retiring from the competition circuit to devote more time to his career as a teacher and researcher at Florida State University in Tallahassee. But he was persuaded to return to international checkers in the 1970s. Since then, he has regained his world champion title and fended off all challengers. In the past three decades, Dr. Tinsley's opponents have managed to win just five games off him.

Checkers has come a long way
Until Chinook came along,



Prof. Jonathan Schaeffer (left) and Dr. Marion Tinsley (right) at the World Checkers Championship in London.

it is just a question of time before Chinook, and computers in general, overtake humans in checkers and in other areas of intellectual endeavour. After all, when we speak of a computer as "thinking," that is only a metaphor, and one which confuses the concept of thought with that of logic, he points out. A computer is capable of the latter, but not the former.

"Chinook is getting better and better and we are just getting older and older," says Dr. Tinsley with characteristic dry humour. "But it is perfectly possible that the human intellect could leapfrog over Chinook. I mean we humans supposedly only use about one per cent of our brains. I am going to end up at the end of this match being a better checker player as a result of playing Chinook."

Dr. Tinsley rises from the checkers table to go off for a well deserved lunch before he returns for another game in the afternoon. It is supposed to be a day of rest, but the games in this battle between human and electronic intelligence have each gone on for so long that the contestants are having to make-up time so as not to fall behind the tight two week-long schedule.

Chinook's creator, Prof. Schaeffer, a modern day Dr. Frankenstein, stays on to answer journalists' questions about his computer programme. In spite of the hot news from Bosnia Herzegovina, political campaigning in the United States and another scandal in the British royal family, the contest has aroused a good deal of interest in the press, with newspapers following its slow progress. Each day brings its quota of reporters and photographers to the Park Lane Hotel, much to the delight of the computer company which is sponsoring the event and to the apparent irritation of the

young Prof. Schaeffer who speaks dismissively of the "drivelling rubbish" which has been written about Chinook in some newspapers.

"I think the programme is performing very well," he says. "But I think Marion (Tinsley) is performing to the best of his abilities. I think Chinook is an interesting challenge for him and I think he is reaching down deep inside to play probably better than he has ever played before."

Chinook has its weaknesses

Prof. Schaeffer, a computer scientist from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, admits that Chinook has its weaknesses, but he insists they can be eliminated.

"If you give me enough computers, I can improve the programme very easily," he says confidently. "Time is on our side. We have lots of knowledge. Our programme has at its disposal a library, if you will, of 70 billion checkers positions. And there is a lot of information gleaned from human books. The problem we have of course is that Dr. Tinsley has been studying the game for 50 years, whereas we have only been building up the programme for three years and it's very difficult to make up this difference of experience. I think we will take over in the game well before the end of the decade and if I get the resources that I need it will certainly happen next year."

There is a popular tendency, encouraged by science fiction books, films and comic strips, to anthropomorphise computers, and this leads to scaremongering theories and predictions that, if we are not careful, robots will one day take over the universe. Good scientist that he is, Prof. Schaeffer dismisses all this as so much uninformed rubbish.

Prof. Schaeffer locates the

Affected naivety

Passenger to Tehran

By V. Sackville-West (introduction by Nigel Nicolson)
Cockbird Press, Heathfield, East Sussex, 1990, £17.95

The tone of Vita Sackville-West's journal of her travels is well set by Nigel Nicolson in his new introduction, quoting a letter from Vita to Virginia Woolf where she dismissed India as "a loathsome place without one shred of any quality, and I never want to go there again." Upon receiving her letters from abroad, Virginia Woolf wrote in her diary a sentence of great condescension: "She is not clever: but abundant and fruitful, truthful too."

That Vita is truthful cannot be denied. The "introduction" rambles on for pages as an apology for the fact that no one can hope to capture on paper what the emotion can feel. "Language follows (the function of the eye), a tortoise competing with the velocity of light; and after five pages of print succeeds in reproducing but a fraction of the registered vision." Many disclaimers later, the journey actually begins.

The journey took Vita through Egypt and Iraq and finally, many dreadful metaphors later, into Persia in time for the coronation of Reza Khan. The narrative is lightened by certain moments of episodic inconsequentiality, such as Kitchener's shock when her pet dog trotted out in front of him on the balcony of the Residency. "Good gracious, what's that? A dog?" Although she tells this anecdote, about Kitchener, the attitude of "Good gracious, what's that?" tempered by her femininity, is her very own as she travels further east. From time to time, Vita stops to muse over the little people doing things with their hands, such as the potters in Egypt, and they generally remind her of animals: "I felt that, could I but pronounce the necessary words, the whole of this gentle community would at once be restored to their rightful forms." Not only were most Orientals only narrowly human, the Egyptian labourers suffering the blows of the corbush were also apparently as thick-skinned as donkeys — "when the lash fell on them, they skipped into the air, but very good-humouredly..."

When the prose is not too purple for modern taste, it is too simplistic. By dismissing the whole of India in a sentence as "too vast, too diverse, to be grasped as a whole," by describing objects "not as I knew them to be, but as they seemed to me," Vita has essentially discarded most of history and chosen to be a Georgian existentialist, and her constant musings as to what an object could be, the significance of her surroundings and the naivety she affects combine to produce an effect similar to that of Sartre's Nausea.

The fact that Virginia Woolf wrote to Vita after reading the typescript, "it's awfully good... I didn't know the extent of your subtleties," only seems, to this reader, to serve the purpose of faint praise — Middle East International.

Russell Harris

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 1

8:30 Uncle Buck

Uncle Buck becomes the custodian of his late brother's three children.

9:10 Civil Wars

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Miles From Nowhere

Starring: Rich Schroder

Friday, Oct. 2

8:29 Comedy

9:10 Good Guys

10:00 News In English

10:20 Colombo

Saturday, Oct. 3

8:30 America's Funniest Home videos

9:00 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini Series

Bonjour La Galere

Starring: Nancy Bell and Guy Marchand

Antoine is always busy with his work as a composer in an advertising agency. This drives his wife to boredom and she asks for a divorce.

Sunday, Oct. 4

8:30 Coach

Either learns the hard way that one cannot escape his fate.

9:10 Jungle Pharmacy

The Western World is becoming aware of jungle medi-



Keith Barron and Emily Bolton in *The Good Guys*

cine and how to use it effectively.

Jungle Pharmacy — shot in Brazil, Peru, the USA and Britain — investigates how scientists are trying to keep this ancient medicine alive and use it in modern context.

Tropical forests have already yielded such drugs as quinine for malaria; curare, a muscle relaxant for use in major surgery; rosy periwinkle, a drug used in the fight against leukemia and Hodgkinson's disease; and catapillars, a major new anti-hypertension drug derived from snake venom. The programme talks to tribal healers who claim plant cures for a vast range of diseases and sicknesses.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Cont. Of The French Mini-Series Bonjour La Galere.

Monday, Oct. 5

8:30 The Powers That Be

Joe Bowman, running for president, has a way with women.

9:10 Game To The Dogs

Lauren asked her husband Larry for a short trial separation and starts working as a waitress.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Gravy Train

Tuesday, Oct. 6

8:30 Acropolis Now

9:00 Mr. Bean

9:10 TECX

Getting Personal

Is there a safe place on earth to dump nuclear waste?

News In English

10:20 When The Lion Roars

Wednesday, Oct. 7

8:30 Saved By The Bell

The Bayside School wins the competition against the other school.

9:00 Wednesday Forum

9:30 Chuedo

Going, Going, Gonner

Wealthy Mrs. Peacock has invited Peregrine Talbot-Wheeler, presenter of popular TV show, the Antiques Treasure Trail, to dinner. Talbot-Wheeler is to value her collection of antiques for insurance purposes, but the evening does not begin well however, when the renowned expert is two hours late. When he arrives, Mrs. Peacock can only watch in growing horror as her star guest proceeds to insult her friends.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bangkok Hilton

The father decides to defend his daughter, after being notified by the lawyer.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

DID YOU KNOW?

- U.S. President John Taylor married twice. Each wife gave birth to (7) fine healthy babies.
- Birds can distinguish almost all colours, but dogs and cats, though have acute eyesight, cannot discriminate between different colours.
- A couple of rats can yield 350,000,000 mice if such production continues to survive for 3 years.
- Without turning its head, the giraffe can see everything from behind.
- Dwight Eisenhower was one day a real governor to Germany.
- Diamond is the sole gem that consists of one element — the pure carbon.
- Edgar Wallace who produced more than 150 stories, could write a thirty-six thousand-word article in one day.
- One of the book worms could punch 27 volumes. Strangely enough, the punch was so straight that it was easy for anybody to insert effortlessly a wire through them.
- It was a prevalent custom in Siam to let loose a tiger to attack both the plaintiff and defendant, and whoever survived death would be regarded as innocent.

★ ARABIC NAMES AND THEIR MEANING

Adel	Just; fair
Abbas	The fearful lion.
Aziz	Dignified; Honest; Strong.
Atiya	What is given (gift).
Afaf (Fem.)	
Refraining from whatever is evil either through action or word.	
Saber	Patient and resolute.
Sadek	Sincere/fiducial
Saddam	One who obstinately resists to defend oneself.
Tariq	One who comes at night; The morning star; The event.
Assem	The protector; The saviour.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JOKES AND CRACKS

— The businessman in his concluding note to his new charming secretary said: "I'm quite confident you'll be capable of performing your job most successfully here, but there is still only one thing to ask: Have you got an old picture of yours to show to my wife?"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Two friends met at a psychiatrist's clinic:
The first: Are you coming or leaving?
The second: If I had known, I wouldn't have come here.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— It once happened that Einstein went into a restaurant

without wearing his reading glasses. As the waiter advanced to show him the menu, the great scientist whispered in his ears: "Would you mind reading the list, please?" The waiter, who failed to recognise him, smilingly said: "Excuse me, sir, I'm unfortunately uneducated like you."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC FAMILIAR EXPRESSIONS

- Wait for me till I return: Intasirni hatta a'oud.
- I carry no money about me: La ahmel ma'i noqad.
- She loves him above all things: Heya tohibboh akthar min kull shay.
- This room will not accommodate us: Hathehi al ghorfa la tass'ona.
- I have an account against you: Lee alafk dayn.
- Write your address on this paper: Uktob onwanak ala hathehi al waraga.
- This food does not agree with me: Hatha at'tam la yonashouni.
- Answer me to the point: Ajibni bisaraha tamman.
- I appeal to God against evil: A'outho billha minashaytan.
- He is to me the apple of my eye: Howa s'azz amass andi.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

RIDDLES

1. Riddle me, riddle me, what is that over the head and under the hat?
2. What goes up when the rain comes down?
3. A little old woman with twelve children: Some short, some long, some cold, some warm, what is it?
4. What has hands but cannot hold anything?
5. It's your parents' child, it's not your brother, it's not your sister, who is it?
6. It is a word of five letters. Take away two letters and you have only one left. What is it?
7. There are three workers, they have a brother named John. But John has no brothers. How come?
8. Six legs, one tail, two heads. What is it?
9. What begins with T, ends with T and has T in it?
10. What is the word that everybody spells wrongly?

Explain the following

- a- Judas' kiss.
- b- Cockpit of Europe.
- c- Laconic reply.
- d- A stentorian voice.

Solutions on page D

The homecoming

By E. Yaghi

Amman — Sept. 24, Northwestern winds swept dark clouds across the grey sky signalling the approach of autumn. The heat, triumphant in its relentless scouring of fields and mountains, had crept away without a warning, leaving cool mornings and cold evenings in its wake. It was the day before the occurrence of an outstanding event and all Jordan, especially Amman, were busy in preparation for the great homecoming! Last minute banners were strung across streets joining other colourful ones that had already been placed. Houses boasted the red, white, black and green national flags from rooftops and cars decorated with ribbons and flowers and pictures of the King, whizzed past, honking their horns in anticipation of the oncoming momentous occasion.

Later in the evening after the russet sun sank below the many blue mountains of the city, singers sang to enthusiastic audiences while young men clapped and joined in the festivities, crowding around their entertainers. Soon, cars and pickups filled to capacity, overflowed with citizens clapping flags or pictures of the noble leader and some admirers even hung out windows of vehicles. It was a time that would not be forgotten for years to come and a celebration that looked like ten-thousand weddings.

Friday, the next day, Sept. 25, the peach sun rose as usual appearing especially bright and stretched out its painted scarlet fingers to greet the morning star. The day promised to be big and exciting as well, a day that would become unprecedented in the history of the Kingdom of Jordan. Around 11 a.m., when the sun climbed high in the sky, school children swarmed across the large circle where I live, singing and clapping their hands in elation while teachers stopped traffic to allow their youngsters to cross the streets unhindered and then they briskly followed after their charges, trying to keep up with them and keep them in order. Some older boys gathered in the middle of the circle and to the tune of a catching rhythm on a hand drum, danced the debka as they sang the "Hashemi" song. While rivers of school-children flooded through the streets and parks, more cars, pickups, trucks and buses, filled to super-abundance, revolved around the circle chanting praises to our beloved King and waving flags or pictures of him in the air. Everyone, old and young, male and female, was caught with a dazzling current of anticipation and

jubilation as each bore on to his or her own destination. The scene that continually unfolded itself before my eyes hypnotised me. I couldn't tear myself away and found myself running between the television and the front windows trying not to miss out on anything. I totally neglected all my duties and became spellbound at the masses of people congregating together to greet our distinguished and illustrious leader. I was deeply inspired by the genuine expression of feeling that spontaneously spread from one part of the city to another. "The people are one!" I exclaimed with awe. "Rich and poor, cultural distinctions and ethnic differences all blended into one people, one voice, unified in their adoration of His Majesty King Hussein!"

The infatuation of the crowd was magnetic. When the King's car paraded through the streets of Amman, one million hands stretched out to welcome him in total reverence, veneration and allegiance. This day, a national holiday, witnessed the most massive celebrations in the Kingdom's history. The one million spectators who patiently waited for hours to see their cherished leader, proved their devotion and love for him and renewed their commitment of faithfulness and loyalty to his command.

But what makes our King so special? Certainly, he has wisely, faithfully and with utmost dedication, led his people and his country through a remarkable forty years of incredibly changing times. His efforts to modernise and stabilise Jordan and to work unceasingly for peace in the Middle East are unmatched and there is no leader anywhere in the world who is more loved and treasured by his people than he is. However, as impressive as his talents as master statesman are, his greatness has not made him loose touch with the common man, and in fact, it is his humble and kind demeanour that has won the hearts of not only his people but the admiration of many others around the world. His endowment with a magnanimous character provides a constant example for all.

Around 7 p.m., my two teenage sons returned home, tired but exhilarated that they were fortunate to see the King. The day of his homecoming is a day I shall remember for as long as I live and in parting, I humbly pay my respects in saying, Welcome Home Your Majesty! May you continue to prosper as leader of your faithful and beloved citizens and may you and your loved ones enjoy the best of health and happiness!

Hani the lonely lion pines for mate in Iraq

By Nicholas Phythian
Reuters

BAGHDAD — King of jungle seeks four-pawed female who enjoys donkey meat, wants to raise cubs. Reply to Hani, Baghdad Zoo — but wait until the sanctions are lifted.

Hani, the last lion in Iraq, cuts a lonely figure as he paces back and forth, tail twitching, in his open-air enclosure.

At the age of three he is in his prime and ready for a mate, zoo officials say. Were it not for the Gulf crisis, they say they would have found one for him by now.

But with air flights to Iraq banned and no sign of an early end to the two-year-old U.N. trade blockade, Hani looks set to remain a bachelor.

"He needs a mate. A male needs a female. This is from Allah," Isam Hamed, one of the zoo's veterinarians, told Reuters. "If you bring a female for this lion he will be

very quiet and very happy." Zoo Director Hani Hameza Mehd, after whom Hani was named by President Saddam Hussein, said last year that before the Gulf crisis the zoo had arranged to bring a lioness from Egypt. That plan fell through because of the sanctions.

"If we can find a female lion from another country, we and he will be very happy," Dr. Hamed said. "But even if we find a female, we cannot import because of the embargo and the ban on air-
lights."

Lions once ran wild in Iraq. The last was shot dead about 50 or 60 years ago.

Hani, a gift from Chad as a cub, remains the sole occupant of a new open-air enclosure with a network of four accommodation cages at the rear.

The enclosure, its perimeter fence raised specially to prevent him jumping out, was originally conceived as a sort of honeymoon suite.

"We built it for him and we

wanted to have two or three families of lions there," Dr. Hamed said.

The zoo occupies a corner of central Baghdad's sprawling Al-Zawra Park, which with its Ferris wheel and other amusements is a popular weekend meeting place for families and friends.

"On Fridays, we get about 3,000 people visiting the zoo," Dr. Hamed said.

Opened in 1973 and funded by the government, the zoo has about 2,000 birds and animals including monkeys, eagles, tigers, wild pig and a collection of domestic dogs.

Since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, it has built new cages for and enclosures for camels, birds, monkeys and an American puma — which some say came from Kuwait.

Officials said some birds and monkeys died during and after the Gulf war when food was scarce and Iraq's power generation system was smashed.

But Dr. Hamed, one of 40 zoo staff, said that despite the trade blockade imposed shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait the animals are in good health.

He said the zoo raised some of the animals' food itself and bought the rest on the open market, despite the expense.

Mr. Salman, Hani's keeper, said the lion had plenty of donkey meat to eat.

And yet... One Iraqi, a twinkle in his eye, described Al-Zawra Park, where families stroll and children play among the eucalyptus and palm trees, as a popular meeting place for lovers.

The zoo, which is currently trying to breed a zebra and an Iraqi donkey, has not lost hope for Hani.

"We hope that after the embargo is lifted and we have flights again and if we have enough money that we will be able to buy him a mate," Dr. Hamed said.

Belgium's last colonial shop closes

By Patrick Lannin
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Situated in the heart of Brussels, just off the Rue Des Colonies, Hecq Congo was the place for any traveller bound for Belgium's former African territories.

Now, the mosquito nets are gone, the water bottles, stout leather-bound travelling trunks and pith helmets sold off as the last shopping outpost in Belgium's colonial history closes.

After surviving the independence of Belgium's colonies, the shop has lost out to more modern forces — rent rises resulting from a mini property boom in the city.

"The shop was opened by my father in 1938 to cater for all the Belgians who went to work in the country's colony of the Congo (now Zaire)," said owner Robert Hecq standing among the remnants of what was once a lushly decorated shop floor.

"It was a must for any traveller to the tropics," he

added, Belgian and European royalty were among the clientele.

Even though Zaire and Belgium's other former colonies Rwanda and Burundi claimed their independence in the 1960s, Mr. Hecq said he always had a steady flow of customers, from Belgians still living in Africa to tourists.

Brussels had around a dozen specialist shops catering for colonialists before Belgium relinquished its overseas possessions. Mr. Hecq's was the only one of survive.

"I am a victim of property speculation," said 60-year-old Hecq. "When it was announced that all these international organisations were coming to Brussels, everyone said great, it will bring more jobs, more development."

"But the reality is very different, they are getting rid of Brussels' people and replacing them with office blocks." An influx of international

companies and the ever-expanding European Community have created a mini boom in Brussels real estate prices — new construction projects and half-finished office blocks scar the city.

Mr. Hecq said the monthly rent for his 350 square metre (3,770 square feet) shop had rocketed from around 2,000 Belgian francs (\$66) to up to 22,000 francs (\$730).

The shop is now a shadow of its former self — the 1920s style art deco interior has been stripped, the shelves dismantled and all the stock sold.

"This shop had soul," Mr. Hecq said.

The landlord, a large Belgian insurance firm, plans to gut and refurbish the interior but retain the ornate facade.

Herman Buhendwa, a Zairean who lives in Brussels, said he was a regular customer of Hecq Congo.

"I really used to like this shop, you could get everything there you needed for Africa," he said. "But I am not surprised they are closing, they aren't in fashion any more. People now go to Africa just like they dress in Europe."

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

True friendship is like sound health: the value of it is seldom known until it is lost — C.C. Colton, English clergyman-writer (about 1700-1851).

I always prefer to believe the best of everybody — I saves so much trouble

— Rudyard Kipling, English writer (1865-1936).

Love truth, but pardon error — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

Renan-Scheffer Museum — an important place for romantic life in Paris

By Camille Hérison

One of the charms of strolling through Paris is that one always comes across some hidden or unknown treasure. This is the case with the Museum of Romantic Life, nestling in Rue Chaptal on one of the slopes going up to Montmartre.

PARIS — The large two-storey house, with its Italian-style facade, stands in a paved courtyard at the end of a tree-lined avenue. It has two glass-covered studios and is typical of the Restoration period. It was built at the end of last century and was the residence of the Parisian painter Ary Scheffer whose niece was to marry the writer Ernest Renan.

This artist, with his Dutch origins, who made his career in France, is practically forgotten today, but, in his time, he was considered as equal to the greatest painters. The public and juries found the world of literary and sentimental imagery, which was fashionable at the time, in his work ("of a thinker and a poet," according to certain critics).

The district in which Ary Scheffer lived was called "La Nouvelle Athènes" (New Athens). A writer on the "Journal des Débats" had given it that name because it contained a whole colony of writers, actors, musicians and painters forming the élite of the Romantic movement

which was revolutionising arts and literature.

Places in Paris have a strange destiny. In the north of the capital, a stone's throw from Pigalle, yesterday's "La Nouvelle Athènes" has become "Le Quartier Saint Georges." It is now mainly known for its night-life with its cabarets and bars for prostitutes and gangsters who sometimes settle their scores there noisily.

But Ary Scheffer's house has not changed. It has remained as it used to be when the painter held his Friday soirées there. These were feverish, passionate evenings, gathering together the artistic celebrities of Paris with Ingres, Delacroix, Liszt, Chopin, George Sand and Lamartine.

George Sand was a neighbour

Arriving from his distant

Russia, Turgéniev held the assembly spellbound with his accounts of hunting parties across the steppes. Béranger tried out his "Chansons" there, that the whole of France would shortly be humming.

After going to Renan's descendants, the painter's home was given to the stage by his heirs. In 1982, the City of Paris, which is in charge of it, had the good idea of turning it into a museum.

With its heavy faded drapes, its old-fashioned ornaments, its yellowed books and its smell of polish and faded flowers, this place has the charm of antiquated things. One suddenly feels transported to the time of horse-drawn carriages and gas lighting.

The museum's permanent collections attribute an important part to George Sand, the woman writer who used to come round to Rue Chap-

tal as a neighbour. Between 1840 and 1850, the author of Indiana, crowned with literary fame tinted with a scandalous reputation, lived a stone's throw away in Square d'Orléans where, in spite of herself, she gave her consumptive "Chopin" (the pianist Frédéric Chopin), on the verge of exhaustion, herb teas, broth and chocolate to drink.

Some 170 items, paintings, drawings, objects, jewellery, letters and manuscripts (including that of Alphonse, her novel which was interrupted by her death) bring the "likeness of Berry" back to life in the atmosphere of a Paris "salon."

This "old style" museum avoids all flashy advertising. It has, above all, become known by word of mouth, to lovers of Romanticism who remain numerous throughout Europe. This can be seen by



The George Sand 'Salon' in the Museum of Romantic Life in Paris.

the number of German, Dutch, British and Italian (and, more recently, a few Japanese) visitors who go there every year.

In addition to its permanent collections, the Renan-Scheffer Museum also holds some temporary exhibitions, which are always devoted to

the Romantic period: "Lamartine and the artists of the 19th century," "The Ary Scheffer studio," etc. — L'Actualité En France.

Danish Oscar winner signs Streep, Close for new film

By Lars Foyen
Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Denmark's Oscar-winning film director Bille August hopes for supernatural support in his new project which brings together top American actresses Meryl Streep and Glenn Close for the first time.

August's *The House of the Spirits*, based on Chilean novelist Isabel Allende's best selling novel, will also

feature British actor Jeremy Irons and August's wife, Pernilla.

"I hope my grandmother Clara's spirit will protect the film," Allende said in a telegram which August read to a news conference when announcing the cast earlier this month.

The House of the Spirits is an autobiographical epic in the South American literary tradition of "magic realism", a blend of reality and the

supernatural.

It tells the story of a family living through the turbulent times 20 years ago when Marxist Salvador Allende was Chile's elected president. The author's father was a cousin of Allende, who died in the coup which brought General Augusto Pinochet to power.

Streep plays Clara, Close and Pernilla August are cast in the other two leading female roles, Ferula and Blanca.

August, who wrote the screenplay, said he had spent three years looking for the right cast.

"I must have met all the great actors in the world by now, and Meryl Streep and Glenn Close are the two queens of the cinema at the moment. I am very relieved and pleased about getting this cast together," he said.

Irons, who played opposite Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, has the lead-

ing male role, Esteban.

Shooting starts in Portugal in January and is expected to last 16 weeks. The world premier is planned for late 1993.

August declined to say how much the film, backed by companies in Denmark, Germany, Portugal and other countries, would cost.

"This is a huge challenge for me. I hope to create something which has the same depth, greatness and quality as the novel, and is

entertaining at the same time," he said.

"It's a story about a political situation, but more about the contrasts in the country, between man and woman, rich and poor, who's in charge and who's not."

The fame of the cast would help distribution, especially in the United States.

August, heir to Sweden's Ingmar Bergman as Scandinavia's leading film director, won an Oscar for best foreign

film in 1989 with *Pelle the Conqueror*. He won this year's Golden Palm Award at Cannes for *Best Intentions*.

August met and married Pernilla, whose career was boosted by a role in Bergman's Oscar-winning film *Fanny and Alexander*, during the nine-month shooting of *Best Intentions*.

Bergman, 74, wrote the script of the 70-million crown (\$14 million) extravaganza — based on the first 10 years of

his parents' troubled marriage. But he gave the job of directing the most expensive film in Scandinavian history to 42-year-old August.

August is also keen to try his hand at sheer entertainment.

Before filming *The House of the Spirits*, he goes to Italy to shoot an episode for Hollywood producer George Lucas's television series based on the film character Indiana Jones.

Peter Gabriel's Us — gentlemanly confessional

By Gary Hill
Reuters

NEW YORK — Rocker and human rights activist Peter Gabriel is a perfect gentleman, and he's sick of it.

"I get very bored with that sort of do-gooding, nice-guy image," he said in an interview to publicise his new album *Us*, billed as his most personal and emotional ever.

"That's part of what I would like this record to dispel. There have been nasty bits and dark bits in my work before but the benefit things get a lot more attention."

Us — his first album of songs since 1986's hit *So* — confronts his successive painful break-ups with his wife of nearly 20 years, Jill Moore, and with actress Rosanna Arquette. But there's no unseemly, ungentlemanly gossip here.

"I feel my part in the (the break-ups) is something that is acceptable to go into but there's stuff in the middle that belongs to them, to Jill

and Rosanna in this case. It is stuff that shouldn't be put in the marketplace unless they choose to," the 42-year-old Englishman said.

He said he would normally argue that the kind of concrete detail missing from *Us* is what makes songs work, but in this case: "What you have here is emotional details rather than physical details. My interior is pretty accurately defined."

That interior is coloured with striking, varied tones from around the world — bagpipes, Mexican flute, West African talking drums, Russian choir — reflecting Gabriel's experience recording 1989's *Passion*, the soundtrack to the Martin Scorsese film *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

Gabriel said the heady cross-cultural instrumental brew of *Passion* was a milestone in his musical growth but agreed that *Us*, recorded with So co-producer Daniel Lanois, is very much a rock

album, and above all song-oriented.

He said his current song-writing technique typically starts with a groove, as on the song *Come Talk To Me* based on a 10-second "loop" of Senegalese drumming he recorded 11 years ago. He sings and plays keyboards along with the groove to build a song, then brings in other musicians to complete it.

Musicians from Armenia, Turkey, Kenya, Senegal, Russia and Egypt play on *Us* along with some Gabriel regulars and guest stars Sinéad O'Connor and Brian Eno.

Gabriel, in the 15th year of his solo career after leaving the group Genesis, has long promoted world music. He co-founded the British organisation WOMAD (World Of Music, Arts And Dance) in 1980.

Another key component of his internationalism was his Human Rights Now tour in 1988 when he and such musi-

cians as Tracy Chapman, Youssou N'Dour, Bruce Springsteen and Sting toured the world in support of Amnesty International and the Declaration of Human Rights.

Gabriel's newest project is Witness, aimed at supplying human rights activists around the world with handheld video cameras, fax machines and other tools to report rights abuses.

"If you have powerful footage on video it's very hard for governments or authorities to deny that it happened," he said.

The project, partly sponsored by Reebok, will choose among some 2,700 applicants and the first lot of cameras will be sent out in November. Gabriel said the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney King in Los Angeles in 1991 helped convince Americans of the worthiness of the project, but some manufacturers are dragging their heels.

"Whereas Polaroid jumped in when they heard about the programme and provided us with cameras and a lot of film, the Camcorder Manufacturers have been initially enthusiastic but in reality very slow to come through. They're afraid it's going to offend a lot of governments," he said.

Gabriel self-deprecatingly said he had "purely selfish reasons" for all these "do-gooding" projects — "I've always had back at least as much as I've given" — and clearly his concerns on *Us* are mainly personal.

Digging In The Dirt explores deep-seated hurt and rage. *Kiss That Frog* is a playful exhortation to sexual awakening. *Come Talk To Me* begs to break through to intimacy and *Love To Be Loved* confesses to basic emotional neediness.

The record grows out of Gabriel's five years of group therapy.

"What I found was some

anger, release of hurt with some anger, and some of that was blocking me in my relationships and achieving intimacy," he said quietly.

"Although I haven't committed myself to another relationship since then, I think I'm better able now to have a chance of making it work."

The proud father of two daughters 16 and 19, he spoke as any true gentleman would of his ex-wife and his ex-girlfriend: "Jill and I are good friends now and I'm beginning to heal things with Rosanna, which I'm pleased about."

Similarly, during the interview in his Manhattan hotel room, he was the soul of solicitedness, pouring tea, climbing behind the furniture to unplug an interrupting telephone and politely apologising for a soft speaking voice that contains too little "high frequency information" for easy taping.

A perfect gentleman, and ladies, he's single.

Tamil poet, held captive, wins award

By Dexter Cruze
The Associated Press

COLOMBO — Poet Thiagarajah Selvanthi could have been retelling her own future when she wrote: "My heart hangs on a split thread that could snap any time."

Selvi, as she is known to her friends, is a 28-year-old Tamil student. She wrote the poem last year, before she was taken captive by the Tamil Tiger guerrillas who control her home town of Jaffna.

The Tigers are fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government in Colombo for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east of this Indian Ocean island. The 9-year-long war has claimed 17,000 lives.

Ms. Selvi was a third-year student in dramatic arts at the University of Jaffna when she was abducted from her boarding house on Aug. 30, 1991.

Though no reason was given for her kidnapping, she was to have acted the next day in a play that could have been interpreted as criticising the Tigers.

In the Jaffna peninsula, the northern tip of the island off India's southern coast, few dare to openly reproach the Tigers. Newspapers and journals are subjected to strict censorship.

The last time Ms. Selvi was seen was two months ago, by a former prisoner in Jaffna, her friends said.

She is one of four university students among an estimated 2,000 people being detained by Tigers. Among them reportedly are 50 writers, artists, and playwrights. Ms. Selvi was the 1992

recipient of the Freedom-To-Write Award by PEN, an international literary association that has championed the cause of hundreds of writers whose works have jeopardised their safety.

The prize, shared with Haitian journalist Jean Mario Paul, was awarded six months ago but the announcement was withheld until Sept. 2 on the advice of friends who feared what might happen to her.

PEN — whose name stands for Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Editors and Novelists — is a nonprofit London-based group with a worldwide elected membership of 10,000. It sponsors literary events and works on behalf of imperiled artists.

Ms. Selvi's friends said the writer was sometimes disapproving of the rebels when speaking in private. For fear of endangering relatives in Jaffna, the friends agreed to be interviewed if their names were not disclosed.

"Her poems were first-person accounts of imaginary people in situations of conflict," said one friend. "She is part of a generation of feminists fighting for women's rights since the early 1980s."

Her poem, *Rama Turis Ravana*, is taken from an ancient Hindu legend about the abduction of Sita, the wife of the Indian god, Rama, by the Sri Lankan King Ravana.

In the poem, the wife discovers she has been kidnapped by her own husband. She laments: "When I happened to see Rama changing his mask to Ravana, my heart shattered. Who is going to release this Sita?"

Money for songs

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

PARIS — First of all, a received idea has to be demolished. Show-business does not live on a mountain of gold. The French music industry, which employs 3,500 people, has, all companies together, the annual turnover of a medium-sized firm; that is about 6 billion francs from record and cassette sales, and 2.5 billion from royalties.

Six major firms unequally share the market. None of them is French. The biggest, Polygram, is Dutch and, with its three labels for variety music (Polydor, Phonogram and Barclay) has a turnover of over 2 billion francs. The smallest, Virgin, is English and has remained so since it was taken over by its compatriot EMI.

The absence of French firms does not seem to hamper French production. According to Philippe Constantin, the director of a small label in world music,

Mango, who was quoted in "L'Evénement de la Musique": "It is not the origin of the capital that counts. Those in charge of the French subsidiaries have real artistic independence, and are far less at the orders of their bosses in New York or in London than has been said."

This may be reassuring but it does not prevent the national production, which is nevertheless active and good quality, from undergoing a crisis. This is clearly revealed by the figures. In 1988, sales of French variety music accounted for 52.6 per cent of the national market compared with 47.4 per cent for foreign music. In 1989, the ratio was 54 against 46. In 1990, for the first time, production figures were reversed, and, in 1991 this trend was confirmed with 49 per cent for French song and 51 per cent for foreign.

It is not catastrophic, but things are not going well. After the cinema and television, it is a little more of the French heritage that is being

lost. Who is to blame? People point to the FM wave-bands which are listened to by young people: RFM, NRJ, Skyrock, and Fun radio only broadcast 5 to 20 per cent of French songs. The Ministry of Culture is seeing red and talking of quotas. Record producers and the heads of certain radio stations are having discussions. The quotas, called minima, have been set at 25 per cent with a goal of 40 per cent for next year.

A music channel

However, the minima will not be effective unless they are accompanied by a marketing drive. East European countries and the former Soviet empire, where the quality of French songs is appreciated, offer opportunities which certain radio stations have been able to seize by going into business in Moscow, Prague or Bucharest.

One of the objectives decided upon by the FIDIP (Fonds for Intervention and Aid to the Phonographic In-

dustry) has been to provide aid for export (tours and the sale of records abroad). The opening, in New York, of the French Music Office (FMO), which organised the concert in Central Park on July 14, 1991, goes in the same vein.

Distribution inside France also has to be corrected. 50 per cent of records are bought in big stores. These non-specialised stores offer a choice limited to the Top 30 and to compilations of standard works. As 80 per cent of the surveys used to establish the Top Album are carried out in these same sales outlets, it becomes a kind of vicious circle. The FIDIP aims to help record shops, which are professional guarantors of the diversity making it possible to launch new talent.

Finally, there is talk again of TV6, the former music television channel which was lightly scrapped in 1987 by the cohabitation government. Yet TV6 enabled new French song to blossom with Rita Mitsouko, Daho, Farmer,



Edith Piaf, one of the greatest stars of France

Paradis and Niagra. "TV6 was a fantastic launching pad. It had brought a breath of oxygen and stimulated creation," asserts Patrick Zelnick, chairman of Virgin France and of the National Syndicate of Phonographic

Edition, who is fighting, together with other people in charge of French song, to have a new music channel opened so that the American MTV-Europe does not hog the airwaves — L'Actualité En France.

Test screens for genetic disease 3 days after test-tube conception

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Doctors examining a single cell plucked from a microscopic test-tube embryo can tell whether it will grow in its mother's womb to be a healthy baby, researchers report.

"The new technique screens for genetic errors when the entire human embryo is made of just seven or eight cells. This stage occurs three days after sperm and eggs are mixed in the first step of in vitro fertilisation."

If the process works as well as its developers hope, it should relieve the anxiety of parents at high risk of passing inherited diseases to their children, allowing them to be sure their babies will be born

free of genetic defects.

The test is the first that can check a new embryo for genetic diseases. Another technique, reported two years ago, can screen a mother's eggs for genetic defects but does not reveal whether the father's sperm has contributed bad genes after conception.

In its first use, the new test helped a British couple who faced a 1-in-4 chance of having a child with cystic fibrosis.

Doctors used the test to select a genetically normal embryo, then placed it in the mother's womb. Last April, she produced a healthy child, 7-pound Chloe O'Brien, in Burnley, England.

Researchers said they have since used the procedure for

several other families at risk of a variety of inherited diseases, including hemophilia, Tay-Sachs disease, muscular dystrophy and Lesch-Nyhan syndrome.

Previously, doctors have used one step of the technique, called embryo biopsy, to remove a cell from an embryo and determine its sex. This is useful for families that carry X-linked diseases, which afflict only boys. However, its application is limited to a few diseases, and it requires eliminating all male embryos, whether or not they are defective.

The new process allows scientists to screen embryos for any inherited disease in which the specific genetic defect is known.

The embryo biopsy was

developed by Drs. Alan H. Handyside and colleagues from Hammersmith Hospital in London. The genetic analysis was worked out by Dr. Mark R. Hughes and others from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

They teamed up to treat the English couple and reported on their work in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Until now, couples at risk of passing on genetic diseases could avoid having children, adopt, take their chances or have pre-natal testing. With testing, doctors check the fetus after it is already growing in its mother's womb. If it turns out to have a genetic defect, parents must decide whether to have an abortion

or to have a defective baby.

The new procedure "is a very useful technique for patients who are at risk of genetic diseases. The advantage of doing this is to eliminate the need of therapeutic abortion," commented Dr. Richard Rawlins of Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Centre in Chicago.

The new method is still considered experimental. Hughes said Methodist Hospital in Houston will begin performing it late this fall on small numbers of couples.

"It's still very much science," he said. Dr. Hughes said the cost of the testing is still uncertain, but it will probably add less than \$2,000 to the price of one attempt at in vitro fertilisation, which already costs

\$5,000 to \$13,000, depending on where it is done.

In its initial use, doctors tried the technique on three couples. In each case, both man and woman carried one defective gene and one normal gene. If a child inherits a bad copy from both parents, he or she will have cystic fibrosis.

The researchers gathered eggs from each woman, fertilised them with their husbands' sperm and then let them grow for three days. At that point, the embryos had grown to a size of seven or eight cells. Doctors removed one cell from each embryo.

Then, using a technique called PCR that makes multiple copies of the genetic material, they screened each embryo for the defective

genes.

The testing revealed embryos that were destined to have cystic fibrosis, ones that had a single cystic fibrosis gene and would be carriers and ones that had two normal genes.

In its initial use, the procedure resulted in pregnancy and birth in one of the three couples.

"Detecting a single-gene mutation in a single cell represents substantive progress," wrote Drs. Joe Leigh Simpson and Sandra Ann Carson in an editorial in the journal. However, they questioned whether the technique is always accurate.

Dr. Hughes countered that the process underwent extensive testing before it was tried on embryos. "We have done

hundreds and hundreds of cells, and we have not yet made a mistake," he said.

Dr. Hughes added that the test is safe. At such an early stage of development, all the embryo's cells are identical, and one of them can be removed without harm.

Dr. Aubrey Milosky of Boston University Medical Centre said one drawback of the testing is its reliance on in vitro fertilisation, which often fails to work.

"At the best of times, people hardly exceed 14 per cent success rates," he said. "Those are cases where there has not been any tinkering. It is not likely, at first blush, that this pre-implantation technique will have success rates that are better."

Alzheimer-related substance found in spinal fluid, may reveal risk

By Malcolm Ritter

NEW YORK — A substance linked to Alzheimer's disease has been detected in human spinal fluid, raising the possibility of finding people at risk for the condition as cholesterol tests do for heart disease, researchers say.

The substance appeared in spinal fluid and apparently in blood from people without the disease. Scientists still must determine whether concentrations of the substance

are related to Alzheimer's.

Researchers also have found that normal human cells in a test tube produce the substance, called beta amyloid. That suggests laboratory tests could identify drugs that reduce the production and so might fight Alzheimer's, researchers said.

But other scientists were skeptical about applications of the new research, saying it was not clear whether spinal fluid levels of the beta amy-

loid would be related to Alzheimer's, or whether drugs that inhibit beta amyloid production would be effective against the disease.

Some research suggests beta amyloid plays a role in causing the disease, but the matter is still being debated.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that impairs memory, thinking and behaviour. No cause or cure is known.

The findings are reported in two papers in the latest

issue of the journal Nature and in a study to appear on Oct. 2 in the journal Science.

Scientists had considered production of beta amyloid to be abnormal, but the new work proves that wrong and suggests the substance may play some unknown beneficial role, said Dr. Dennis Selkoe of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Alzheimer's may result when beta amyloid accumulates excessively through overproduction or insuffi-

cient removal, said Selkoe, who led one of the Nature studies on production by human cells.

Researchers still must confirm an apparent finding of beta amyloid in some blood samples from 11 healthy volunteers, said Dale Shenk of Athena Neurosciences Inc. in south San Francisco, who reported results in spinal fluid and blood in Nature with co-authors at Athena and elsewhere.

Dr. Shenk said Athena re-

searchers got "encouraging" results from checking a modest number of spinal fluid samples to see whether elevated levels of beta amyloid were associated with Alzheimer's disease. He said more samples must be assessed.

But the Science paper reports no obvious correlation between Alzheimer's and beta amyloid levels in spinal fluid from 10 people, of whom five had Alzheimer's. Dr. Donald Price of the

Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, who was familiar with the studies, said their meaning in Alzheimer's disease was not clear.

The beta amyloid found in the New York differs chemically from that found most abundantly in the brain plaques associated with Alzheimer's, so it may come from a process unrelated to the disease, he said.

Dr. Steven Yankin of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, an au-

thor of the Science paper, said it is possible that both types of amyloid are produced in the same process. The new studies did not definitely identify what type of beta amyloid was found, he said.

Peter Davies, an Alzheimer researcher at the Albert Einstein college of Medicine in New York, said there was no guarantee that drugs that reduce beta amyloid production would be effective against Alzheimer's.

Pork tape worm added to list of potentially eradicable diseases

By Joan Sanchez

ATLANTA — A pork tape worm illness that has caused 50,000 deaths worldwide could be eradicated from the Earth someday, an international task force has concluded.

About 50 million cases of the pork tape worm, or

taeniasis-cysticercosis, disease have been reported worldwide. It is most prevalent in less developed countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia, where pigs often run loose in villages, said Dr. Peter Schantz of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The tape worm is spread

through eating pork that has been cooked inadequately or through contact with fecal bacteria, said Schantz, of the CDC's Parasitic Disease Branch.

"One of the causes for optimism is the experience that has occurred in the industrialised countries," he said. "It (has) virtually dis-

appeared from Western Europe because of modernisation — improved education, improved sanitation. It's almost impossible for the parasite to be maintained."

The International Task Force for Disease Eradication added the disease in March to the list of those that

are potentially eradicable. Its action was reported in the CDC's weekly journal.

The task force, created in 1988, previously has listed polio, mumps, rubella and dracunculiasis, or guinea worm disease, as potentially eradicable.

Labelling a disease as potentially eradicable brings

attention to it that should speed up the global effort to thwart its spread, Dr. Schantz said.

The CDC said the task force had rejected four other diseases for the list:

— Cholera, a severe diarrhoea spread through uncooked foods and water. An epidemic that began in Peru

has spread to Mexico and the Caribbean, killing 5,000 people along the way.

— Shistosomiasis, a virus that attacks the internal organs, including the heart. Between 15 million and 20 million cases have been reported.

— Schistosomiasis, a parasite transmitted through wa-

ter that causes enlargement of the organs. About 200 million cases of the disease, also called snail fever, have been reported.

— Ascariasis and hookworm disease, worms that attack the intestines. Ascariasis has caused 20,000 deaths, and hookworm disease 60,000.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

WESTWARD, BO!
By Raymond Hamel

ACROSS
1 Capital
5 Poker money
9 Rental sign
14 Fire
18 Assistant
19 Flat surface
20 Author Siegel
21 Small group
22 Run away
23 Extent of variation
24 Shared
25 Fine divider
26 TV's Daniel
28 "Big Valley"
30 Casual
31 Substances
32 Across Shady
33 "Planet of the
34 Turkish bludge

DOWN
1 Hook for landing
2 Net
3 Fruit drinks
4 Shoppers' concern
5 Booths Lucas
6 A Tom
7 "Sun Ship"
8 Robinson
9 Place of worship
10 Bay windows
11 Fuzz-covered
12 — home
13 Johnny Yuma
14 Old West
15 Golf course
16 Full light
17 Economic
18 Seesaw
27 Saw

Diagrams 17 x 17, By Don Johnson

ACROSS
1 Overcharged for
2 Middle Ages
3 Male domestic
4 "A Room with
5 —
6 Same official
7 Te
8 Swan song
9 Quaint or bean
10 beginning

DOWN
1 Leap
2 Talked fondly in
3 Musical word
4 Guitars Paul
5 Groove lightly
6 Stage direction
7 Stuffed beef
8 Casing
9 Dance
10 Make happy

37 Birds of peace
38 Network letters
40 "Marshall"
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When walls can make you ill

By Paul Janowitz

SINCE the 1980s, it has been common knowledge that the four walls of a person's home can make people feel ill. Conrad Bölicke-Steffens, a pollution expert at the Technical University of Berlin, attributes this to modern architecture: "The long-term effects of a lot of the building material used today are unknown."

Brick and concrete often have toxic or allergenic additives. Instead of a fire wall, sprayed-on chemicals provide protection against fire. Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) or formaldehyde emit gaseous vapours in joints and cavities. The new materials impair the respiration of the walls and produce symptoms of illness.

It is hardly surprising that a growing number of the disputes between landlords and tenants revolve around pollutants: formaldehyde in chipboards and insulating lathes, PCB and lindane in wood preservatives, PCB in joint sealants, asbestos in heaters and insulating materials, lead in water, and toxic solvents in paint or varnish.

Particularly in the new Länder in eastern Germany, tenants can expect some unpleasant surprises, since panels containing asbestos were commonly used as material in residential building there. "In the former GDR, the residual stocks of wood preservatives containing DDT are still being used today," says Peter Braun from the Advice and Analysis Association for Environmental Chemistry in Berlin.

During recent years, the courts have often decided in favour of the tenants in law suits on the grounds of pollutants in homes. In one case in Berlin, for example, the pollutant in question was the chemical grease remover perchloroethylene (PER). Because this chemical can cause cancer, the Federal Health Office feels that concentra-

tions higher than 0.1 milligrammes of PER per cubic metre of room air are unacceptable. In a flat directly above a dry cleaner's, maximum PER concentrations of 12.3 milligrammes and average concentrations of five milligrammes per cubic metre of air were measured.

The Berlin Court of Appeal decided that the decisive factor was not the fact that damage to health, such as dried-up palates and mucous membranes, swollen tongues, eye inflammations and cramp in the legs, had actually occurred. The cleaner's had to considerably reduce the use of PER.

A legal dispute can initially cost tenants a lot of money. To prove that their health is at risk, they have to present an expert's report, which costs anything between DM20 for a lead specimen in an environmental laboratory and thousands of DM for complicated analyses in engineering offices. If the suspicion that, say, asbestos fibres have been released, is confirmed, the landlord has to foot the bill.

The courts often have to decide when and in which concentration a substance is hazardous. Legally stipulated ceilings only exist for formaldehyde and PER. Otherwise, there are only recommended limitations by the Federal Health Office. If the pollutant concentration is lower than the recommended figure, the tenant has to describe the symptoms of his illness and submit a medical report.

If the court classifies that person's dwelling as a health risk, the rent can be reduced. But by how much? "If gases are emitted, the margin is between ten and fifteen per cent," says Norbert Eissenschmidt, a legal expert from the German Tenants Association. If nothing is done, the tenant can take the landlord to court. In Hamburg and Berlin, for example, landlords had to install new drinking-water pipes because

the lead concentrations had exceeded a level of 40 microgrammes per litre. In many cases, however, sanitation is impossible, for example, if gas from formaldehyde or wood preservatives is emitted from irremovable fixtures and fittings. The house then has to be declared uninhabitable; the tenant can claim compensation.

This could be for the costs of a new heater, for accommodation while the place is being "cleaned up" and for removal costs and associated expenditures, such as new carpets, curtains, newspaper advertisements, broker's commissions, and, in some cases, for lawyers or for the renovation of the new accommodation.

In Munich, for example, a family moved into their dream house with a garden with a ten-year lease. The mother, however, soon became ill, suffered from respiratory infections, skin rashes, watery eyes and

coughing. The daughter kept on catching colds. On holidays, however, the symptoms improved. A pollutant analysis showed that the formaldehyde concentrations in the house were two-and-a-half times the permitted maximum level. What is more, the experts discovered mildew on damp walls.

The tenants terminated the lease without notice and moved out. After five years of legal dispute the court passed judgement in their favour. The landlord had to accept the full responsibility for all damage and illness caused during the years in question by the emissions of formaldehyde. Despite such tenant-friendly verdicts the courts need not expect an avalanche of environmental court cases, since the housing shortage would appear to persuade many tenants not to sue. Lawyer Groth: "The tenants soon notice that it could cost them a place to live" — Der Tagesspiegel.

SOLUTIONS!

RIDDLES

1. Hair.
2. An umbrella.
3. Year.
4. Clock, Watch.
5. I.
6. Stone; Alone.
7. He has three sisters.
8. Horseman.
9. A teapot.
10. Wrongly.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING

- a-JUDAS' KISS: A kiss simulating friendship and characteristic of hypocrisy.
- b-COCKPIT OF EUROPE: Belgium. Because within its territory many wars have been waged and battles fought.
- c-LACONIC REPLY: A very concise and pithy reply. From the people of Laconia or Sparta who were noted for their dislike of talk, unlike their eloquent rivals, the Athenians.
- d-A STENTORIAN VOICE: A very loud and strong voice. From Stentor, the herald whom Homer describes as the loudest voiced man in the whole Greek army.

Two merchants plead guilty

(Continued from page 1)
Ibrahim Bakr described the pleas by the last two defendants as "positive" for not only his client, but also for the other defendants. He cited their statements about not intending to use violence inside Jordan as helping the case of all defendants.

Although the courtroom was full for the second day, fewer deputies than Tuesday attended. Wednesday's session was mostly attended by family members of the accused and other interested members of the public as well as members of the press.

Before the defendants entered their pleas, Prosecutor Mohammad Hijazi responded to objections made Tuesday by Mr. Bakr and Mr. Qarashi's lawyer Ahmad Abu Arkoub.

In a seven-page memorandum he read to the court, Major Hijazi insisted that the procedure in which the investigations were carried out were all legal and conformed to the law of the land.

"I would like to stress the total commitment of the prosecution in executing the law in text and spirit, and its respect for the sanctity of the right to a defence," Maj. Hijazi said. He added that the prosecution "had nothing personal against any of the defendants."

In his statement the prosecutor was basically responding to objections made by Mr. Bakr and Mr. Abu Arkoub to the way the investigations and interrogations were conducted, the role of the GID in the interrogation, the bugging of telephones of the accused without a court order before the official investigations started and a list of other procedural objections.

Much of the hour-and-a-half session dealt with whether it was within the jurisdiction of GID officers to interrogate the third and fourth defendants, and whether they had the right to order the bugging of the two deputies' telephones.

Maj. Hijazi said that according to the 1959 and 1961 State Security Court and Criminal Laws, GID officers are appointed as prosecutor-generals by the chief of the Armed Forces and that it was within the jurisdiction of one of the officers, (named as Marwan Abdul Rahim) who is also a prosecutor, to order the bugging of the telephones. Mr. Bakr had objected that Mr. Shbeilat's phone was tapped without a court order but with an order from a GID officer.

Maj. Hijazi also referred to the GID law of 1964 stating that all officers of the department are members of the Armed Forces, "and therefore are authorised to order the surveillance of telephone calls."

In response to the prosecution's statement, Mr. Bakr stressed that the GID officers "were acting as prosecutor-generals during the days of martial law."

"This jurisdiction is now finished," Mr. Bakr said, appealing to the judges to be fair, just and independent in dealing with his client's case.

Martial law was completely abolished by His Majesty King Hussein this summer.

The draft law on the State Security Court, which is to include military and civilian judges, has not yet been endorsed by Parliament.

Mr. Bakr added that the GID was "linked to the prime minister and therefore is part of the executive branch, which cannot interfere with the court procedure since it is part of a separate branch, the judicial."

"The independence of the three branches is constitutional," Mr. Bakr said.

He did not refute the constitutionality of the State Security Court, but asked the judges to act as a specialised court, separate from all other branches of authority.

Maj. Hijazi responded to Mr. Abu Arkoub's objections that it was not within the State Security Court's jurisdiction to try this case, saying that it was, since an illegal armed group was involved.

After a 15-minute recess, Judge Fawzi said that the court decided to consider the objections and deal with them later on as the trials proceeded to decide the legality of the procedure of the investigations and all other objections made by the defence lawyers.

The judge also told Mr. Bakr that he had the right to look at a photo album that was confiscated from Mr. Shbeilat which allegedly had "writings slandering the dignity of His Majesty the King." The defence lawyers had complained that he did not have access to this piece of evidence.

Meanwhile, about 40 deputies representing all blocs and independents in the Lower House met for two-and-a-half hours Wednesday at the Muslim Brotherhood's office in Shamsi to discuss the case of their two colleagues. According to Brotherhood sources, the participants included a number of deputies who are members of the cabinet: Trade and Industry Minister Abdullah Ensour, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Adel Busab, Minister of State Jamal Khrouaji and Justice Minister Yusef Musaiden. No details were released on the outcome of the meeting except that they decided to meet again next week to continue their discussions on the case.

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No Syrian-Israeli deal — Arafat

(Continued from page 1)
Golan set a good precedent for the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Arafat also warned that failure at the peace talks could lead to war in the Middle East.

"If these negotiations fail, there will be no alternative for war, not necessarily direct war, but chaos in the whole region," he said. "The West should realise that all extremist elements will have the upper hand."

Mr. Arafat also said was offering little to Palestinian negotiators and urged the United States and Russia to intervene.

"Where are the sponsors of the peace conference?" he asked. "I demand that they intervene, as they did during the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. I would like them to set guidelines and not to restrict themselves to sending invitations."

The United States and Russia,

principal sponsors of the Middle East peace talks, have so far refrained from involving themselves directly in the negotiations, which have been held mostly in Washington.

A Syrian Newspaper lashed out Wednesday at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's call for a summit with President Assad.

The daily, Tishrin, said Mr. Rabin's suggestion "is an overt attempt to derail the peace process, sow the seeds of disintegration between Arab parties and shift the target of the peace process."

Mr. Rabin said Sunday that a meeting with Mr. Assad would be needed to achieve peace.

"Without the issue being brought to realisation by the highest ranking of both countries, it will be very difficult to achieve peace at all," he told Israeli Radio.

Fateh urges world intervention

(Continued from page 1)
Wazir added.

She said the Israeli authorities were imprisoning 200 Palestinians every day.

The Department for Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry said last week that the Israeli authorities confiscated more Arab land to set up Jewish settlements and that the Rabin government was planning to settle up to 160,000 Jews in Arab Jerusalem in two years.

The department said at least 23 Arab youths died under torture in Israeli jails in the past few months and various forms of torture and inhuman treatment were rampant in the prisoners.

West wants to seize Iraqi assets

(Continued from page 1)
set up agreements, set up negotiations on renewing the memorandum of understanding with the U.N., and there are some talks that are taking place in the United Nations in New York," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday.

"But from past experience we're extremely sceptical of the promises out of Baghdad," he told reporters.

Mr. Boucher said it was essential for Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions passed after the Gulf war.

"And if it does not, we'll have to continue on the course of what we've been doing, and that's to work with our allies in the United Nations to ensure that we avert a humanitarian crisis this winter, particularly in northern Iraq," he added.

Iran assails UAE over island row

(Continued from page 1)
On Tuesday, IRNA quoted Mostafa Haeri Fomani, Iran's chief negotiator at the talks, as rejecting the UAE's demand to enlarge the agenda to include the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

Tehran Radio said historical territorial claims had no sound basis in a region where most states — except Iran — were formed only after the discovery of oil this century.

"The people of the region ... have not forgotten the bitter taste of the Iraqi regime's historical claims in the two wars" against Iran and over Kuwait, the radio said.

The experience should be enough to prevent a repeat of such catastrophes, it said, but some countries in the region had been provoked into creating divisions over the islands.

"The rich countries of the Persian Gulf should not forget that

the aim of those acting behind the scenes is not to protect the UAE's interests, but to blackmail these oil-producing states by making them feel threatened," it added.

The radio said some analysts believed that the dispute over the islands was being blown up as a smokescreen to cover up a "compromise in the making over Palestine" in U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it supported all measures which the UAE deemed necessary to ensure its sovereignty over the Gulf islands.

In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al Faisal noted with concern the failure of efforts by the UAE "to achieve a peaceful and amicable solution regarding the restoration of its total sovereignty over the three islands of Abu Musa, Tunb and Greater Tunb."

Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co.

Tender (No. B/92)

The Iraqi - Jordanian Land Transport Co. intends to sell quantity of brand new spare parts for Styer truck-tractors. Customs duties unpaid.

Copies of terms and conditions and lists of spare parts can be bought from the company's main offices in Jabal Amman, between Fourth and Fifth Circles, during working hours (0800-1400) for the sum of JD 25, non-refundable, starting from 3/10/1992.

Closing date for submitting offers is Saturday 24/10/1992 (1200 hrs).

Dr. Shaker Mahadin
Director General

Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co.

Tender No. (A/92)

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. intends to sell (89) used M.A.N. truck-tractors.

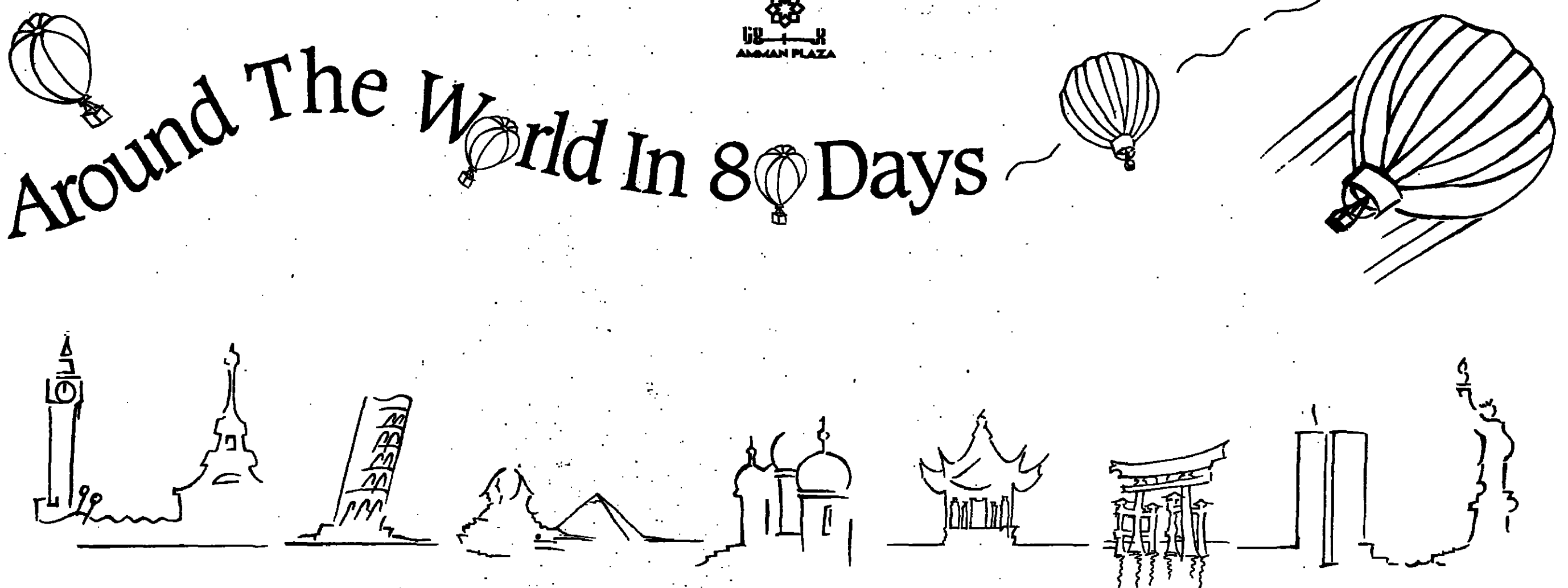
- Customs duties unpaid.
- Offers can be submitted to buy all truck-tractors or any number.

- Truck-tractors can be inspected at the company's garages in Al Azraq, starting from 3/10/1992.

- Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought from the company's main offices in Jabal Amman, between the Fourth and Fifth Circles, during the official working hours (0800-1400), for the sum of JD 100, non-refundable, starting from 3/10/1992.

- Closing date for submitting offers is Saturday 24/10/1992 (1200 hrs).

Dr. Shaker Mahadin
Director General



Take a weekly trip to a different country and enjoy the traditional dishes from all around the world. Visit England, France, Italy, Egypt, India, China, Japan & USA.

Collect your visa on each trip and enter our sweepstake to win a voyage to a different part of the world. Tour starts at the Amman Plaza Coffee Shop on the 2nd of Oct. 1992.

FORTE

Johnson returns to Lakers

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Unable to leave the game he loves even to fight for his life, Magic Johnson returned to pro basketball Tuesday.

Less than a year after retiring because he had contracted the AIDS virus, Johnson announced that he will play again this season for the Los Angeles Lakers and said it was only natural.

"That court is where I belong, no matter what happens," Johnson said, speaking in the same room at the Forum where he had his sad, shocking goodbye, last Nov. 7.

"I'm playing again," he beamed. "Yaaaaa. Finally."

Johnson probably won't play full time — 50-60 games is the starting point for this season — and he'll be checked and double-checked by doctors who admit they don't know just what the impact of professional basketball will do to a man with Johnson's medical condition.

But from the parquet floor of Boston Garden to the Roman pillars of the fabulous Forum, he'll be back, wearing No. 32, flashing that big smile and playing the game as only Magic can.

"It's time to go back to work, it's time to have some fun," Johnson said. "I think the positives outweigh all the risks. That's not saying there are no risks, because life itself is a risk. But being out there, I won't be worried about that. If I was concerned about that, I'd still be retired."

The mood this time was decidedly different from that retirement announcement 327 days ago. This time, Johnson frequently laughed and joked with his wife and reporters, flashing his famous trademark smile.

"This is a lot more relaxed... better," said Johnson, showing the bulk of an added 15 pounds (6.75 kilograms) he gained through rigorous weight training. "It was much tougher then because I was having to say goodbye."

Johnson's wife, Cookie, said she was behind his decision to return "totally... 100 per cent."

Since Johnson announced his retirement, there had been a steady stream of speculation and controversy about his future, mixed with his triumphant appearances in the NBA All-Star game in February and the Olympics this summer. It was that success and the lack of additional medical problems that convinced Johnson to return.

"The true test for me was playing against the players in practice on the Olympic team and watching as I was just getting better and better, playing hard against them every day, going at it like it was a regular game," Johnson said. "Also, getting back here, putting on 15 pounds, play-

ing every day, as we did this morning with the guys at UCLA.

"I'm feeling good and it's time to get back to what I was doing."

Johnson, 33, said there was never a time after the Olympics that he thought he wouldn't return, but waited to make the announcement because, "now is the perfect time. It's only a week until training camp."

The Lakers report to Honolulu on Oct. 8 to begin preparations for the season. Their first game is Nov. 6 against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Dr. Michael Mellman, Johnson's doctor and a Lakers team physician, said the 6-foot-9 (2.06-metre) superstar's decision to play again would present "a new challenge" in treating an HIV-positive patient.

"There's some good and some not so good," Mellman said. "He's a unique case. We've never done this before."

Just how much Johnson plays will be determined as the season progresses and he undergoes repeated tests.

Johnson said he had called Dr. Jerry Buss, the Lakers' owner, Saturday to tell him he had decided to return, and that final details of a contract would be taken care of in the next day or two.

Johnson made his decision public four days after resigning from president Bush's national commission on AIDS and 10 days after scoring 32 points in an exhibition game he sponsors each summer to benefit the United Negro College Fund.

He said his quitting the AIDS commission was unrelated to his decision to return to the Lakers, and added he would consider rejoining the commission if Bill Clinton is elected president in November.

Johnson stunned the nation and basketball fans worldwide when he revealed his illness last November, seemingly ending a 12-year NBA career that included five championships with the Lakers.

He was named to the AIDS commission eight days later. When he resigned last Friday because of what he called a lack of support from the Bush administration, he vowed to continue his fight against AIDS.

Johnson's return follows by six weeks the retirement from the Celtics of Larry Bird, who arrived in the NBA at the same time as Johnson and joined with him in leading a league-wide resurgence in the 1980s. The Lakers and Celtics won eight championships between them in the decade.

"I am thrilled for Magic and I am glad he will be able to continue playing," Bird said. "I'm sure that he and his family have made the decision that they feel is best for him and I wish him all the



Magic Johnson

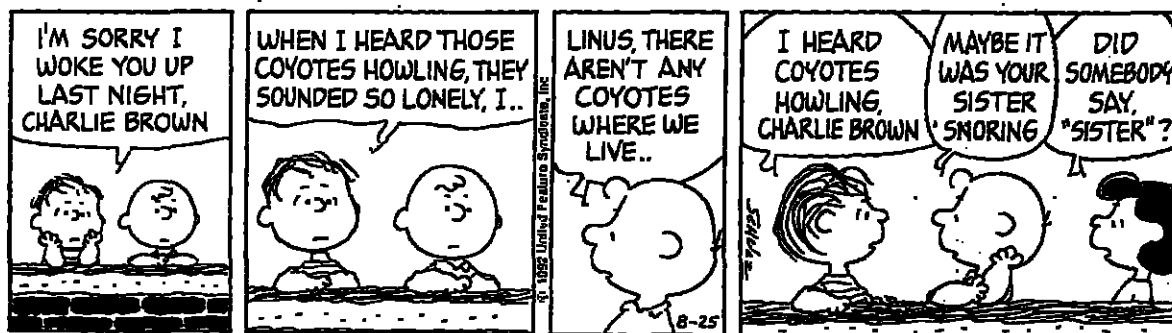
luck in the world. It will be great to watch him play again." Johnson, the NBA's career leader in assists with 9,921 and Most Valuable Player in 1987, 1989.

ANNOUNCEMENT

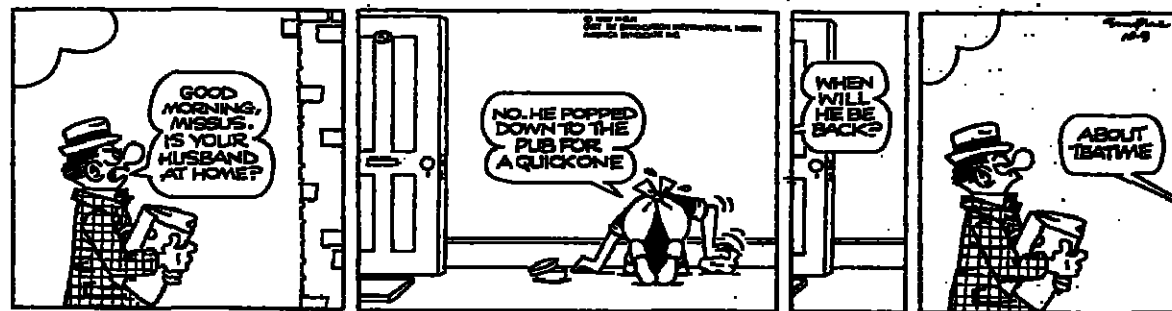
C. ITOH & CO., LTD., ANNOUNCES THAT EFFECTIVE FROM OCTOBER 1, 1992, THE COMPANY'S NAME SHALL BE CHANGED TO: "ITOCHU Corporation". IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION ISSUED BY THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY IN ITS HEAD OFFICE, TOKYO, JAPAN.

ADDRESS IN JORDAN REMAIN UNCHANGED
TEL. 684761

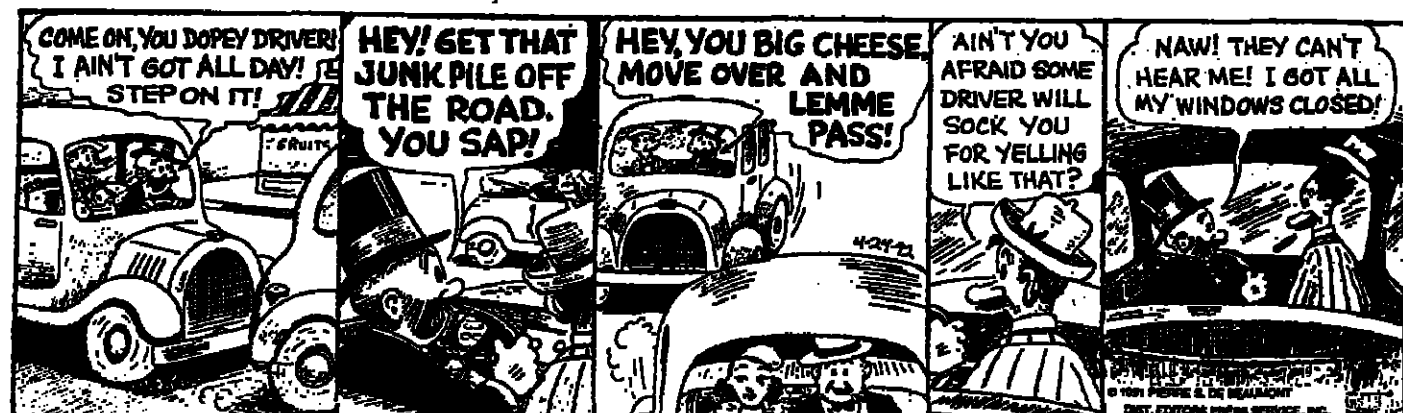
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Regional meeting to discuss wheelchair basketball

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Mediterranean Regional Committee of Wheelchair Basketball for the Physically Handicapped Thursday begins its meeting in Amman under the patronage of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad bin Zeid.

Representatives from 21 Arab, Asian and African countries will be discussing various topics related to wheelchair basketball, including its further development, rules, refereeing and organization of regional competitions.

Regional representative of the Middle East in the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation, Mr. Rizak Al Masri, explained that the main aim of the

meeting would be to elect a regional federation whose work will focus on implementing a plan for the whole region.

"We will be electing an executive regional federation for the years 1992-1996 to oversee the implementation of the plan to be put forward by the participating representatives. We will also be discussing basketball rules, technicalities, and wheelchair basketball refereeing," Mr. Masri told the Jordan Times.

Representing Jordan will be Sharifah Nofa Naser, a member of the basketball committee at the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFHH) and Mr. Masri who is also chairman of the rugby and basketball committees at the JSFHH.

Liverpool, Juventus and Real Madrid score wins

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (AP) — Liverpool defeated Apollon of Limassol 2-1 Tuesday night to advance to the second round of the European Cup Winners' championships.

The English team, which topped the first leg game earlier this month, had to struggle in its away game against the semi-professional local team.

Apollon held off Liverpool easily during the first half, which ended in a 0-0 tie.

The Cyprus team went ahead in the 60th minute when Yugoslav attacker Milenko Spoljarić sent the ball past Liverpool's goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar with a powerful drive from 20 yards.

Liverpool equalized two minutes later with a goal by Ian Rush and went ahead on the 68th minute with its second goal by Don Hutchison, both from close quarters.

Apollon returned to the attack but missed two chances when its forwards failed to find the empty goal from close up.

Liverpool's Paul Stewart was given a red card on the 72nd minute for punching Apollon goalkeeper Michalis Christofi.

Real Madrid scored an easy 4-0 victory Tuesday over Politehnica Timisoara in a first-round, second-leg game of the UEFA Cup to eliminate the Romanian side on aggregate.

Real Madrid played to a 1-1 draw with Timisoara two weeks ago in the first leg of the series.

Real Madrid, which struggled

in the first match, dominated most of the game and went ahead 1-0 in the 27th minute on a header from 10 metres by Alfonso Perez Munoz.

Luis Enrique pushed the lead to 2-0 in the 57th minute on a shot from six metres. Argentine teammate Juan Eduardo Emswiler made it 3-0 when he hit the mark in the 65th minute and Jose Miguel "Michi" Gonzalez notched the final goal in the 87th minute.

In Limassol, Cyprus, Perfergi Casiraghi scored two goals as Juventus of Turin, playing as if it was in a "training session," won 4-0 in a second crushing victory against Anorthosis of Famagusta Tuesday night in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Juventus' advance to the second round had been a foregone conclusion after its first leg 6-1 victory over the Cypriot semi-professional team in Turin earlier this month.

Fabrizio Ravagnoli opened the score on the 14th minute and Jurgen Kohler made it two on the 39th.

Casiraghi scored both the other goals in the 65th and 88th minutes of the game that local sports commentators described as "a training session" for Juventus.

The game was played before 6,000 fans in the Andonis Papadopoulos Stadium.

Meanwhile, Turkey's Galatasaray soccer team defeated Poland's Katowice 2-1 to advance to the second round of the UEFA Cup Tuesday.

Asian Clubs' Championship

Al Wihdat club plays UAE's Al Wasl Friday

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's 1991 first division soccer champions Al Wihdat Friday play Al Wasl Club of the United Arab Emirates in the first leg match of the Asian Clubs' Championship's first round.

Al Wihdat had their final training session Wednesday. Prior to that all the team's members had a one month extensive training programme during which the team practiced five times a week. All the top stars were totally committed to practice with their coach Mohammad Mustafa, who since 1986 has coached Al Wihdat to two first division trophies as well as Jordan Cup, Federation Shield and Cup Winners' Cup titles.

This might sound like Al Wihdat is totally prepared to face Al Wasl who are considered one of the best teams in the Gulf region. However, Al Wihdat's coach says his team is not as well prepared as he would have liked them to be.

"The main reason we are not so confident of our preparedness is because we did not have a chance to practice at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium, where the match will be played on an all-grass soccer field unlike the surface we always practice on," said Mustafa. Adding: "We were promised maintenance work at the stadium would be finished at proper time to allow some training, but the stadium will not be ready until Thursday one-day before the match."

Mustafa however added that the team members are very hopeful.

"We watched some videotapes of Al Wasl's matches and we do not underestimate our opponents," Mustafa told the Jordan Times. "We've heard a lot about them and many of their players are members of the UAE's national team who played in the 1990 World Cup."

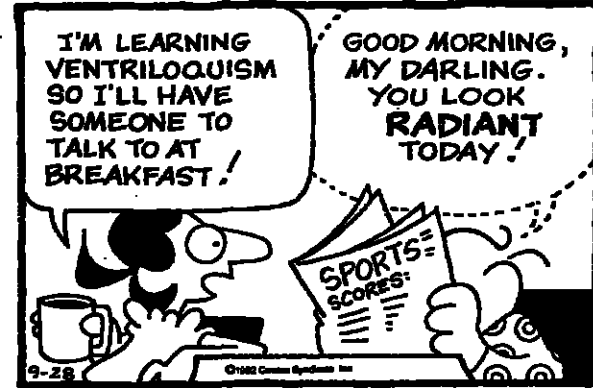
Al Wihdat had four friendlies in preparation for Friday's match. They beat Ein Karem 1-0, Al Zarqa 1-0, Al Karmel 6-1 and lost to Al Karmel 2-1 in a match reserves as well as key players participated.

Top players representing Al Wihdat include goalkeeper Naser Ghandour, Naser Al Horani, Hisham Abdul Mun'em, Ibrahim Sa'diyeh, Jamal Mahmoud, Jihad Abdul Mun'em and Yousef Al Amouri. Firas Fawzi and Raed Asaf will miss the match due to injury.

The second leg match will be played in Dubai on Oct. 9.

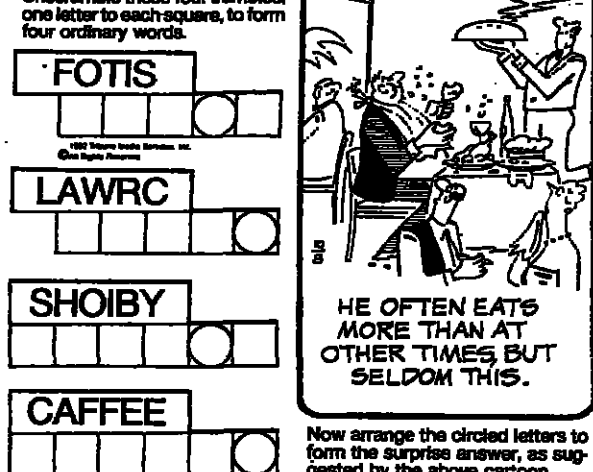
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



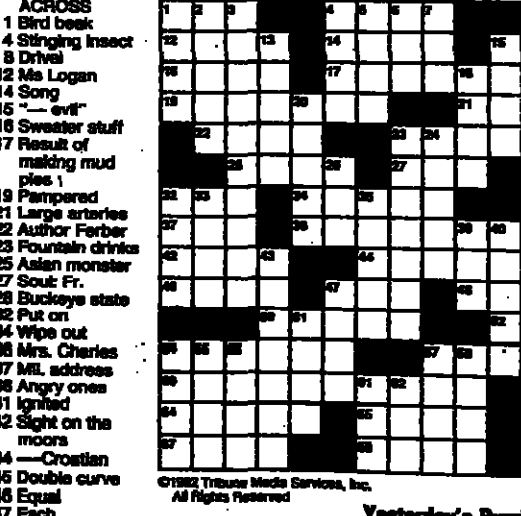
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

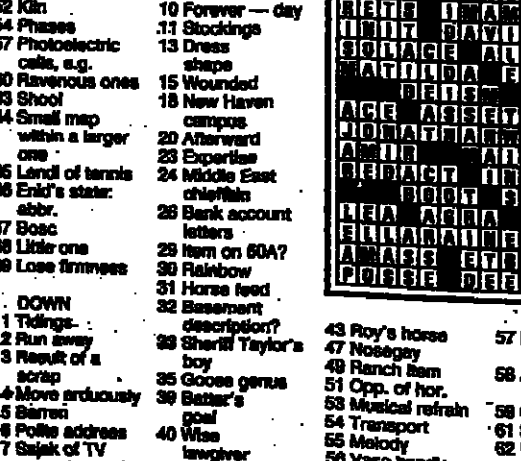
Yesterday's Jumbles: LOONY MOLLY CABANA KETTLE
Answer: Where can you find a good card game on a big ship? — ANY "DECK"

THE Daily Crossword

by Roger Coburn



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK Date 29/9/92	TOKYO Date 30/9/92
Sterling Pound	1.7865	1.7903
Deutsche Mark	1.4125	1.4135
Swiss Franc	1.2273	1.2305
French Franc	4.7735	4.8050**
Japanese Yen	119.25	119.25
European Currency Unit	1.3990	1.3965**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.21	3.12	3.31
Sterling Pound	8.93	8.87	8.68	8.31
Deutsche Mark	9.18	9.12	8.93	8.56
Swiss Franc	6.87	6.87	6.87	6.88
French Franc	15.00	11.50	10.00	9.00
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.87	3.81	3.71
European Currency Unit	13.12	12.00	11.31	10.37

Gold	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Silver	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.00	6.80	Silver	3.75	.090

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.672	0.674
Sterling Pound	1.2022	1.2082
Deutsche Mark	0.4751	0.4775
Swiss Franc	0.5474	0.5501
French Franc	0.1407	0.1414
Japanese Yen	0.5686	0.5654
Dutch Guilder	0.4234	0.4255
Swedish Krona	0.1268	0.1274
Italian Lira	0.0558	0.0561
French Franc	0.02314	0.02326

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7540	1.7660
Lebanese Lira	0.0288	0.02888
Saudi Riyal	0.1789	0.1800
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1821	0.1831
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7130	1.7280
UAE Dirham	0.1821	0.1831
Greek Drachma	0.3575	0.3775
Cypriot Pound	1.5790	1.5990

Index	28/9/92	Close	29/9/92	Close
All-Share	151.30		151.80	
Banking Sector	115.06		116.06	
Insurance Sector	157.40		159.35	
Industry Sector	197.79		197.40	
Services Sector	218.91		219.37	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.7795/05	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2530/35	Canadian dollar
	1.4120/30	Deutsche marks
	1.5900/50	Dutch guilders
	1.2320/30	Swiss francs
	29.04/08	Belgian francs
	4.7870/70	French francs
	1230/1240	Italian lire
	119.50/55	Japanese yen
	5.3000/3100	Swedish crowns
	5.7300/7400	Norwegian crowns
	5.4700/4800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$348.90	

Shipping rates sink to 5-year low

LONDON (R) — Rates for shipping cargo have sunk to their lowest levels for five years as a result of the global recession. World imports of coal and iron ore, the main commodities shipped by sea, have slumped as the economy bounces along in the doldrums and plenty of ships are plying for charter, according to freight market brokers.

But for grain, a third major class of cargo, shipping rates are holding up better as more vessels are needed at this time of year — the end of harvest in the northern hemisphere.

"We're running into a season when rates would usually begin to improve, but there is very little evidence that they are actually going to go up," one broker said.

The Baltic freight index, a barometer of world shipping rates in the coal, iron ore, grain and fertilizer sectors, plunged to a five-year low of 1,042 points.

Arab Banking Corp. may delay European consolidation

MANAMA (R) — Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the biggest international Arab bank, said its consolidation of European branches and subsidiaries may be delayed by a year in plans for European union.

President and chief executive Abdullah Saudi told Reuters that the bank's consolidation of its European branches and subsidiaries may be delayed by a year in plans for European union.

"When we started ABC International it was aimed at achieving a number of targets, on top of that, to consolidate our European presence under one European unit," he said Tuesday.

"We were faced with some obstacles... we were optimistic that by 1993 certain of these obstacles would disappear and they (European states) would become one market," he said.

"The way we are looking right now at the European situation it may take a longer time... we may have to live with it but the concept, the policy remains," he said.

France's recent slim vote in favour of European economic, monetary and political union, coupled with turmoil in currency markets, have been seen as a setback for European integration.

Mr. Saudi said ABC International Bank, which began operating in April 1991, had taken over ABC's Paris branch but had been unable to follow suit in Milan because the transfer would have incurred a prohibitive capital gains tax.

Plans for the international wing to buy shares in ABC's Spanish subsidiary, Banco Atlantico, have been delayed for the same reason.

Bahrain-based ABC has subsidiaries in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland which form part of a network extending to Asia and north and south America.

The London-based bank, which has paid-in capital of £150

million (\$270 million), made an unaudited net profit of \$8.7 million during the first six months of 1992.

Mr. Saudi said ABC's plans to open a representative office in Iran in October were moving ahead on schedule.

He declined to speculate on possible repercussions from a dispute between Tehran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three Gulf islands at the mouth of the Gulf, Iran and the UAE broke off talks to end the dispute earlier this week.

"We are going ahead with the opening of our rep office, we think it is justified by the relationship we have maintained on the business side with financial institutions in Iran," Mr. Saudi said.

ABC is owned mainly by the emirate of Abu Dhabi, the Libyan treasury and Kuwait's finance ministry. Private investors hold more than 20 per cent of the bank's equity.

Premier asks Italians not to withdraw cash from banks

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, in a move to stop what he said was an irrational rush to withdraw cash from banks, assured the public Tuesday the government was not planning to touch their money.

"The Italians' rush to withdraw money from banks is unjustified," Mr. Amato told a news conference. "We are not planning any new measures... there is an irrational fear that has spread and I cannot understand why."

Bankers said there was a noticeable trend among clients to sell up investment portfolios and withdraw cash, apparently fuelled by rumours the government was planning to freeze 30 per cent of bank deposits. The treasury has denied all such rumours.

"It is not a rush, but it is noticeable," the director of one major bank told Reuters. Italian state television's third channel, however, said there had been a "panic rush" on deposits in two small bank branches operating inside parliament.

The report said officials working in the two chambers of parliament appeared particularly nervous that the government might impose restrictive measures on Italian savings, despite repeated official denials.

Mr. Amato said: "One thing is certain: Those who are rushing to the banks to put cash under their

mattresses so as to protect their money from the government are doing something completely senseless because the government has no intention of taking this money from their bank accounts."

"This must be absolutely clear," the prime minister added. Bankers said the rumours first surfaced last week and had been gathering strength ahead of Wednesday's key cabinet meeting at which the government is due to approve the 1993 budget.

Investors, stung by a one-off 0.6 per cent tax on all bank deposits imposed last June, fear the government might cave in to trade union demands that it should put the main burden of redressing the economy on those living off interest income.

This represents a huge section in Italy where the European community's largest public debt is largely financed by small savers.

The trade unions have been pressing Mr. Amato to water down his \$75 billion package of cuts dismantling Italy's generous but inefficient welfare state. One of the three main labour groups has threatened a general strike unless the premier gives way.

Mr. Amato himself has threatened to resign unless the reforms he sees as essential to restore Italy's international credibility get through parliament unscathed.

Russian unemployment expected to rocket to 7 million next year

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Unemployment in Russia could skyrocket to seven million people or eight per cent of the work force next year, a senior official has said.

Inflation has hit triple digits under reforms started last January by President Boris Yeltsin, but so far official unemployment has been kept below 250,000 as the state continues to subsidise unprofitable businesses that it owns.

The government plans to cut subsidies as it struggles to control the deficit, and the number of bankruptcies will rise, costing jobs. Economics Minister Andrei Nekrasov said in remarks published in the government daily Rossiiskie Vesti (Russian News).

"In 1993... the number of people needing work could rise to about seven million people, or eight per cent of the work force," he said. "About five million of them might be called 'jobless', of which about 4.7 million will receive unemployment relief."

Under the Soviet system, officials claimed that no one was unemployed. But the introduction of market reforms has changed that.

The number of people now registered as jobless is 248,000, the daily Moskovsky Komsomolyets reported. Authorities have said that nearly twice that number of people might be "unofficially" jobless.

Last April, Vice Premier Alexander Shokhin said there were 100,000 people registered as jobless in Russia, but that the number might rise to 700,000 by autumn and 2-3 million by the end of 1992. On Aug. 27, government spokesman Alexander Ulukayev said that the number of jobless could be 1.5 million by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the second stage of the Russian government's economic reform programme will revolutionise the country's traditional cradle-to-grave social

security system. "We must abandon the system of government protection which has been in existence for many years," Yevgeny Yasin, head of the working group in charge of the reform programme, told a news conference.

Mr. Yasin said in future the government, battling to cut a huge budget deficit, would contribute a certain amount towards public services and people would pay for the rest by using a voucher system.

The proposed changes strike at the heart of the former Soviet social system, whereby the government took care of all services and paid all benefits, and will ram home to the population the full scope of the government's reform plans.

Russia launched the programme in January, lifting most state price controls in its effort to dump the socialist system for a market economy.

It floated the second stage in June, promising to stabilize the slumping economy by 1994 by boosting privatisation, attracting foreign investment and stabilising the rouble.

The reforms, dealing with issues like economic liberalisation, privatisation and relations with other former Soviet states, will be implemented over a three-year period.

Russian reforms say public spending must be cut and Mr. Yasin made it clear the proposed changes would free funds for investment and relieve some of the burden on the authorities.

"The government is now paying for social security, health care, education and public housing," Mr. Yasin said. "We intend to change the system so that consumers can contribute to the services they need."

He said people would pay for vouchers to be used for education, health care or public housing. The vouchers would be a form of quasi-money.

Hughes wins \$258m Arab satellite contract

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S. Hughes International has been awarded a \$258 million Arab satellite contract, Arabat officials said Wednesday.

Arabat Director-General Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Bedna told Reuters the contract for building two satellites was awarded to Hughes after the U.S. company amended its offer.

He said the satellites would be prepared for launching by the French rocket Ariane.

Arabat sources said Hughes was chosen out of the three companies competing because its version of the satellite was technically the best.

The other two companies were British Aerospace and Aerospaciale of France.

Mr. Bedna said Hughes agreed to lower its offer to \$258 million from \$267 million and to extend the operational life of the satellite to 15 years instead of 10 years.

He said the decision to give Hughes the contract was taken by the Arabat board of directors in the Syrian capital Wednesday.

The board was expected to reach a decision Tuesday evening but it was delayed by heated discussions by the Arabat officials on the specifications and financing offered by the companies.

Mr. Bedna said the first satellite should be delivered 29 months after the signing of the contract and the second would be on standby.

Mr. Bedna said each of the

HS601 satellites would have communications capacity of 18 channels in the C band and two in the S bands which are used for telecommunications and television as well as 12 KU-band used for computer data transmission.

This would allow the reception of television transmission in Arab countries with small dishes of 60-80 cm, he said.

He said the Damascus meeting was an historic event marking the start of the second generation of Arabat satellites.

Arabat, which was formed in 1976, sent its first satellite into space in 1985. It sent another in the same year and third in February 1992 with an operational life of 10 years.

Hughes, a General Motors Corporation subsidiary, was a late entrant to the contract bidding opened by the Riyadh-based Arabat Corporation in July 1990.

British Aerospace PLC and Aerospaciale of France entered the tender with Eurospace PLC and Spaceplus Satellites respectively.

Hughes did not enter in 1990 due to its small representation in the Arab region but after the company's involvement in setting up the Arab space anti-aircraft defence system, the group expanded its office in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh.

Hughes' offer included various launch vehicles but Arabat officials said the satellites would be launched by Ariane.

Egyptian factories protest power prices

CAIRO (R) — Textile manufacturers in Cairo have complained to the government about a sharp rise in the price of electricity, saying it could force many small factories out of business.

Abdul Wahab Sharawi, head of the Textile Manufacturers Association in the industrial suburb of Shubra Al Khayma, bought a front-page advertisement in the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram to ask Prime Minister Atef Sedki to intervene.

"We are already in a very tight spot. The far east offers rock bottom prices... (this) could force at least 500 small factories to close," said Mr. Sharawi, whose association represents 1,200 manufacturers, mostly exporters.

"The increase was sudden, we were not informed of it or prepared. We have already signed export contracts according to previous prices and it will be very difficult for us to honour these contracts with the new rise," he added.

Mr. Sharawi said electricity prices in Cairo had risen 125 per cent in July and 11-fold since 1984.

Electricity Minister Maher Abaza confirmed prices had risen but denied the increase was as large as Mr. Sharawi said. Textile manufacturers in areas outside Cairo, whose tariffs are different, said the increase in July was 40 per cent.

Mr. Abaza told Reuters by telephone: "We did not raise prices in July by 125 per cent. It is not true. They are complaining because they are used to the subsidised prices."

But Mr. Sharawi insisted on his figures, saying the price of a kilowatt-hour had gone up to 18.5 piasters (5.5 cents) from eight piasters (2.5 cents).

"Figures and bills do not lie," he told Reuters. "We have an agreement (with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank) to raise energy prices to international levels by 1995."

Zimbabwe power shortages could cost \$1.4 billion

HARARE (R) — A critical power shortage could cost Zimbabwe 64,000 jobs and \$1.4 billion in lost revenue, according to a national business organisation.

The Zimbabwe Association of Business Organisations, an industry task force studying the electricity crisis, urged the government to take urgent steps to alleviate the shortage.

It told the semi-official Sunday Mail that one way of doing this would be to shut Sable Chemicals, a big fertiliser and electrolysis company consuming about 10 per cent of Zimbabwe's power supply.

"The effects of doing so in terms of employment loss and revenue is far less than the 64,000 jobs and the 7 billion Zimbabwe dollars (\$1.4 billion) and 45 per cent drop in foreign exchange that is likely to be lost if these measures are not taken," it said.

There was no immediate comment from the government. But Sable Chemicals warned that closure could cripple agriculture, Zimbabwe's mainstay industry, and have ripple effects on companies across the nation.

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Cinema CONCORD

SHARIHAN...IN LOVE & FEAR (Arabic) Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PHILADELPHIA

DEAD BANG Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 THE GOONIES

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

at 6:00 p.m. daily Shahrazad and Sinbad play A quiet comedy for all members of the family (adults and kids). Prior reservation is needed. The next show is: (Taa' Waqaymah)

AHLAN THEATRE

Nabil & Hisham presents The Political Satire Play Welcome... New World Order Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

Brazil president impeached

BRASILIA (R) — Brazil's Lower House of Congress has overwhelmingly voted to impeach President Fernando Collor de Mello on corruption charges, stripping him of power for the next six months.

The move will almost certainly end the rule of the country's first directly elected president in three decades.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Collor, who is due to be removed from office in a day or two, to the crushing 441-to-38 vote.

The four-month-old scandal, in which Mr. Collor has been accused of lining his pockets with millions of dollars from a government corruption scheme, has all but paralysed the government and unnerved financial markets.

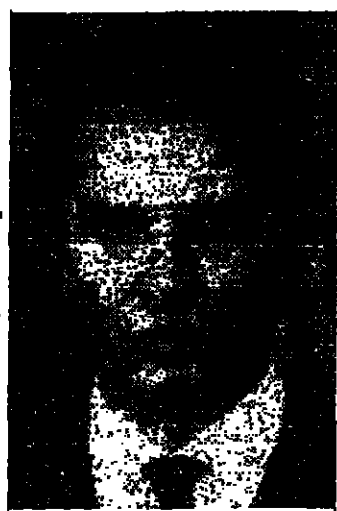
Vice President Itamar Franco, a 61-year-old electrical engineer with 30 years of experience in Brazilian politics, will become the interim president while Mr. Collor's case is heard in the Senate.

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators, jamming nearly every major city in Brazil and listening to the vote by radio, roared their approval as deputy Paulo Romano cast the 336th vote and put the impeachment bill over the top.

Millions of people watched the vote on live television across this vast country, Latin America's most populous nation and its economic powerhouse.

Mr. Collor's support collapsed at the last moment and the margin of victory exceeded even the most optimistic expectations of his opponents. The country's youngest ever president did not watch the vote, a spokesman said.

"We expected victory but not a massacre. This was beyond any-



Fernando Collor de Mello

thing we had foreseen," said Congressman Ulysses Guimarães.

"What it shows is that as far as the Brazilian people are concerned, this fellow... has been thrown out of the government," said Mr. Guimarães on Globo Television.

The Lower House leadership will inform Mr. Collor of the results and the case will be turned over to the Senate, where he will be judged on charges he took millions in a money-for-favours racket run by his former aides.

After a series of legal formalities that could last a day or two, Mr. Collor will be informed that he has been removed from office for six months while the Senate tries him, Brazilian constitutional experts said.

The vote — and especially the huge margin — raised pressure on Mr. Collor to resign and avoid the Senate trial. The president has thus vowed never to resign and has called the impeachment drive the work of power-hungry politicians.

Public opinion has turned strongly hostile towards Mr. Collor during the scandal, in which the president, through a web of phantom bank accounts, allegedly received millions of dollars from his former campaign treasurer, Paulo Cesar Farias.

Mr. Farias has been indicted on charges he operated a multi-million dollar slush fund, collecting money through a series of corruption schemes including influence peddling, extortion, bid rigging on government contracts, overpayment of government purchases and kickbacks from contractors.

Congressional investigators have estimated Mr. Collor had received some \$6.5 million through the scheme. Mr. Collor is accused of using these funds for personal gain.

Even before the voting finished, investors were betting on Mr. Collor's downfall. Stocks at the Sao Paulo Stock Exchange, the country's biggest, rose a brisk 7.7 per cent by the end of trading due to confidence Collor's removal would bring an end to months of political upheaval.

A presidential spokesman said before the vote that Mr. Collor would speak after it was over, but was not answering the phone after the vote and nothing more was heard about a news conference.

During the six-month suspension, Mr. Collor will technically be president. But his acts will be those of a private citizen and he will have no power according to constitutional experts.

Once Mr. Collor is informed of his removal from power, Vice President Itamar Franco will be sworn in at Congress as interim president, the experts said.

Mr. Franco, a former engineer

unbaited by the Collor scandal, watched the vote on television at his home in Brasilia, his secretary said.

A native of Minas Gerais state who has never been on close terms with Mr. Collor, Mr. Franco has been meeting in the past week with powerful political leaders to form his first cabinet.

Mr. Collor's economy minister, Marcilio Marques Moreira, who is well-respected in banking and investment circles, has already said he does not wish to serve in a Franco government.

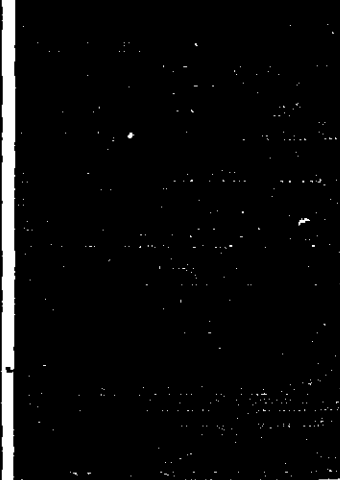
With his removal from office, Mr. Collor joined a series of Brazilian presidents who have come to ignominious ends. One committed suicide in 1954, another impetuously resigned in 1961 and another was overthrown in a military coup in 1964.

Mr. Collor's chances of surviving a trial in the Senate appeared slim. His own supporters have admitted his support is extremely weak in the 81-member upper house, where, if found guilty, he would be definitively removed and barred from holding public office for eight years.

If found innocent, he could return to the presidency.

Mr. Franco's thinking on many key economic and political issues is little-known to many Brazilians. As recently as a month ago, opinion polls showed that about half of the country's 150 million people did not even know who he was.

But Mr. Franco has criticised some of Mr. Collor's free market economic reforms. People close to the president-to-be have said he would be likely to use more direct measures to revive Brazil's economy, now caught in deep recession and inflation running at about 25 per cent a month.



A view of the Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines

U.S. hands over base to Philippines

SUBIC BAY, Philippines (R) — The United States lowered the American flag over its Subic Bay Base for the last time Wednesday and formally handed over the giant naval complex to the Philippines.

Steady drizzle drenched around 150 diplomats and military officials as a U.S. Navy band rang down the curtain on nearly a century of U.S. military presence at the base.

"This is in some way a sad day," new U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon told the ceremony at the base's Tappan Park.

"While we regret leaving this great naval base, which is without equal anywhere in the world, we respect the fact that the Ramos government understands the tenor of the times."

"It is our hope that the excellent harbour and valuable facilities that we are leaving behind will now contribute to the economic development of the Philippines."

Philippine President Fidel Ramos, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was not there to hear Mr. Solomon.

The brief ceremony on a circular platform surrounded by American flags effectively signalled the end of an era when Washington saw the Philippines as a major bulwark of its cold war military might.

The last 1,200 to 1,300 American servicemen are due to leave the nearby Cebu Point Naval Air Station in November.

Washington wanted to stay at Subic and other bases in the Philippines for 10 more years, but was forced to leave after the Philippine Senate refused a year ago to ratify a new bases treaty.

Mr. Solomon, underlining the changed relationship, said "The U.S.-Philippine partnership will increasingly be based on economic and commercial relations, cultural contacts and human ties."

That will not stop Washington trying to negotiate some form of continued access to the fine, natural harbour of Subic Bay and the air station under the umbrella of the 1951 mutual defence treaty that still binds the two nations.

Talks on access are expected to play a big part in a meeting of senior military officials of the two

countries in Manila in November. The Philippines government plans to turn the 14,400-acre base into a free port, ship repair yard, commercial harbour and industrial zone.

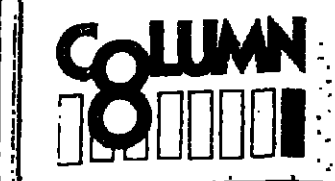
It hopes up to \$8 billion worth of facilities being left behind by the Americans will woo enough investment to soak up 4,000 jobs being lost at the base and many more in nearby Olongapo.

But first the government must prevent Subic falling prey to the looters that destroyed the U.S. Clark Air Base when volcanic ash from erupting Mount Pinatubo forced the Americans to abandon the facility last year.

Olongapo Mayor Richard Gordon, who is in charge of turning the Philippines dream of Subic becoming an industrial centre into reality, pledged to protect the base.

But at a news conference later Mr. Gordon acknowledged there had already been efforts to steal equipment.

Some people tried to remove navigational equipment on Grande Island in Subic Bay Tuesday, but it had been recovered, he said.



Lawyer denies princess Stephanie wedding rumours

MONACO (R) — A lawyer for Princess Stephanie has denied rumours buzzing through the Mediterranean principally that she is about to marry a former family bodyguard whose child she is expecting. "Contrary to the rumours of the last few days, the princess has not, up until today, made any plans for a wedding," lawyer Thierry Lacoste said in a brief statement.

Photographers gathered in Monaco hoping for a shot of 27-year-old Stephanie with her lover, Daniel Ducruet. Enquiries about the rumoured wedding met with polite silence from the ruling Grimaldi family's officials. "I have no confirmation of any such thing," said palace spokesman Philippe Blanquet.

Monaco's archbishop, Joseph Sardaou, who usually conducts all important religious ceremonies in the principality, said he was not aware of any marriage plans. Stephanie, whose stormy love-life has often made magazine headlines, announced earlier this year that she was expecting Mr. Ducruet's baby in November. She said she met Mr. Ducruet, who now runs a fish-importing business in the nearby French town of Menton, when he was a bodyguard for the family four years ago.

In a joint interview later, the couple said they would marry but did not intend to "rush things."

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Some people tried to remove navigational equipment on Grande Island in Subic Bay Tuesday, but it had been recovered, he said.

Meteor-producing comet reappears

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comet Swift-Tuttle, which produces Earth's spectacular Perseid meteor shower every August, has been spotted for the first time since 1862, astronomers announced. The comet's reappearance came more than a decade later than expected by many astronomers, including Brian Marsden, director of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams. But in a 1975 study, Marsden also predicted the comet might show up late this year if it failed to appear between 1979 and 1983. Until now, the longest time span after which a comet reappeared as predicted was 76 years for Halley's Comet.

Mr. Marsden said by phone from his Cambridge, Mass., agency. The bureau receives and reports new discoveries for the International Astronomical Union. Even when it sweeps within 110 million miles of Earth in November, the comet will be faint — visible only to those who know where to look with telescopes, binoculars and possibly the naked eye, Mr. Marsden said. Named for two astronomers who saw it in 1862, comet Swift-Tuttle was observed anew early Sunday by Tsuruhiko Kouchi, and amateur astronomer in Utsuda, Japan. He saw the comet as a fuzzy blob through 25-power-by-150-millimetre binoculars.

But peace mediators saw a glimmer of hope for peace talks to become serious over the next few weeks because of new willingness from warring factions in former Yugoslavia to discuss a range of issues.

"We are on the verge of disaster," said Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. But she said if governments reverse policy and make possible an immediate, massive effort, "we could work wonders" and save possibly everyone at risk.

Nureyev choreographs 19th century classic

PARIS (AP) — Rudolf Nureyev, reportedly in poor health, returns to the Paris Opera stage next month with a new choreography of "La Bayadere," the 19th century classic which he danced in perfection in the 1960s. The 57-year-old dancer, who has lost a considerable amount of weight in recent months, has attended rehearsals at the Paris Opera where the work launches the fall ballet season on Oct. 8. An opera spokeswoman confirmed that Nureyev was "very, very tired," but she declined to elaborate. The artistic director of the Paris Opera from 1983-89, Nureyev returned as chief choreographer after completing a road tour in the United States of the musical "The King and I. Only one act of "La Bayadere," the 19th century classic by Marius Petipa, is known to French audiences. But it has a special place in the Russian-born dancer's heart. It was his first performance in Paris after defecting to the West in 1961. Nureyev has choreographed three acts of the work for the Paris Opera Ballet Company. The sets and costumes are by Ezio Frigerio and Franca Squarciapino.

The officials, speaking at their sector headquarters in this town on the Croatia-Serbia border, said members of the Serb Territorial Defence with AK-47 assault rifles and other weapons were ready to confront the Croats.

Meanwhile about 1,000 Croatian refugees risked a violent showdown with armed Serb forces Wednesday when they defied U.N. advice and tried to return to their homes in Serb-occupied territory.

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Massacre inquiry condemns Ciskei troops

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — An independent South African enquiry into the Bisho massacre condemned Ciskei homeland troops for "indiscriminate and prolonged shooting" at African National Congress (ANC) demonstrators which it said killed 29 people.

The enquiry, headed by Judge Richard Goldstone, also strongly criticised ANC leaders "who had exposed marchers to the dangers of death and injury," the South African Press Association reported Wednesday.

Ciskei troops on Sept. 7 opened fire on about 60,000 ANC supporters marching on the nominally-independent homeland, with the declared aim of toppling its ruler, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo.

Judge Goldstone said in his report: "Indiscriminate and prolonged shooting at innocent demonstrators is morally and legally indefensible and is deserving of the strongest censure."

"When the crowd in that area turned to flee... the continued and prolonged firing was quite unjustifiable and unlawful."

Judge Goldstone, appointed last year to head a commission of enquiry to look into violence in South Africa, was asked by President F.W. de Klerk to conduct an independent investigation of the Bisho killings.

The report said the action by a Communist Party leader, Ronnie Kasrils, in leading a group of demonstrators through a gap in a fence blocking the demonstrators "was the immediate cause of what followed."

It said his action was "regrettable and irresponsible" and the ANC should publicly censure Mr. Kasrils and others who had exposed the marchers to the danger of death or injury.

The report said march leaders could not have anticipated the "almost unbelievable response" of the Ciskei soldiers, but noted that a violent response had been anticipated days ahead.

Meanwhile, three black homeland leaders Tuesday attacked last weekend's government-ANC summit as a bid to hijack political negotiations.

The dispute illustrates the increasing political fragmentation in South Africa, where talks on ending apartheid collapsed three months ago.

Leaders of the KwaZulu, Ciskei and Bophuthatswana black homelands said they rejected agreements reached Saturday between Mr. De Klerk's government and ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

The De Klerk-Mandela meeting was seen as an important first step toward resuming black-white negotiations. The leaders said they made progress on halting chronic violence that has killed thousands of people and obstructed efforts to negotiate the end of white minority rule.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Ukrainian premier offers to quit

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's conservative Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, widely blamed for delays in market reforms, offered to resign Wednesday to prevent a full-blown political crisis. But opposition leaders in parliament said they would not let up the pressure until the entire government went with him. Mr. Fokin, a former Communist official, blamed a smear campaign backed by the "yellow press" for his decision. "This has been brewing for a long time and I see that there is no sign of it ending," he told Reuters in an interview. "This is the only way to ensure peace and consensus in the country. I was happy to have been the first premier of an independent Ukraine." Vyacheslav Chernovil, head of the nationalist Rukh Movement, said the departure of Mr. Fokin was not enough. "The whole government must resign," he told reporters at parliament. President Leonid Kravchuk, himself a former Communist boss, announced Mr. Fokin's decision to parliament, prompting a round of cheers and applause. Parliament must now vote on whether to accept Mr. Kravchuk said that he expected 18 cabinet members out of a total of 42 to be replaced along with Mr. Fokin, 60, a veteran Communist Party official when Ukraine was under Soviet rule.

Russian troops take Dushanbe Airport

MOSCOW (R) — Russian troops seized control of the airport in Dushanbe, capital of war-torn Tajikistan, and shooting was reported around the city, an army spokesman said Wednesday. Akbarsho Iskandarov, the acting president of the Central Asian republic, said in two separate messages to CIS leaders and the United Nations that he was powerless to stop bloody fighting and asked for help. Interfax News Agency said. "The conflict in the south of Tajikistan is growing. It can have unpredictable consequences not only for Tajikistan, but also for the Commonwealth of Independent States and, possibly, for the whole world community." Interfax quoted him as saying. Mr. Iskandarov urged the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to take "urgent measures to render active help to the government to normalising the situation on Tajik soil."

Thailand cabinet pledges consensus rule

BANGKOK (R) — The cabinet of Prime Minister Chuan Lekpai says consensus will rule in Thailand after decades of powerful individual dictating government policy. "The era of the economic czar is over," Deputy Prime Minister Amnuay Viravan, a key member of Mr. Chuan's economic team, told reporters. His sentiments were echoed for external relations by Foreign Minister Prast Somsiri. The five-party coalition government, with neutral bankers in economic positions, was approved by King Bhumibol Adulyadej Tuesday night. It will be sworn in Thursday. Mr. Chuan put together a coalition made up mainly of parties that campaigned for Sept. 13 general elections with pledges to end the traditional domination of Thai politics by the military.

S.Korea uncovers biggest spy ring

SEOUL (R) — South Korean spycatchers said Wednesday they had arrested 61 people in the biggest coup against Communist agents for North Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War. An official for the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) said it had uncovered a huge spy ring which aimed to establish a faction of North Korea's Labour Party in the South. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the ring had a suspected membership of 5,000 and had been revealed after months of investigating hundreds of people, including politicians, scholars and dissidents. South Korea has announced several arrests this month, including some prominent dissidents, revealing details of the sometimes bizarre world of North-South Korean espionage. The NSP accused well-known dissident Kim Nak-Choon, a former political party leader, of spying for the North for 36 years. Evidence of his activities included the discovery of 1 million in cash hidden under a soy sauce jar in his back yard. A search of Mr. Kim's property also unearthed a North Korean-made shoyel and a cache of deer horn, considered a male sexual stimulant, which the NSP alleges was a present to Kim from North Korea's Stalinist leader Kim Il-Sung.

Time ticks away at N. Ireland talks

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland peace talks resumed Wednesday with time ticking away and attitudes hardening on all sides. Despite last week's boycott by hardline Protestant unionists and fears that the delicate negotiations are in imminent danger of collapse, British officials remain doggedly optimistic. "I think we are on the brink of a very happy future for Northern Ireland," the province's Political Affairs Minister Jeremy Hanley said. "We are in a very hard negotiating phase at the moment and everybody is playing as hard as possible for an agreed solution," he said in the lead-up to the latest session at the grandiose Stormont Parliament buildings overlooking Belfast. "As long as we get the agreement on behalf of all parties, the occasional skirmish on the way to success will be forgotten," Mr. Hanley said.

Ozone hole over Antarctica 'is as big as North America'

WASHINGTON (R) — The "ozone hole" over Antarctica expanded by 15 per cent in 1992 and is now nearly the size of the entire North American continent, the U.S. space agency said.

The space agency said preliminary results from its ozone mapping project aboard the Nimbus-7 satellite showed the Antarctic ozone hole measured 8.9 million square miles (23 million sq km) on Sept. 23, up from 7.7 million square miles (20 million sq km) in 1991.

The data, which showed large ozone depletions for the fifth year since 1986, made the ozone hole over Antarctica the largest on record, it said.

The surface area of the entire North American continent is 9.4 million sq miles (24 million sq km). Antarctica has a total surface area of 5.1 million sq miles (13 million sq km).

Ozone makes up a thin protective layer in the Earth's upper atmosphere, absorbing harsh ultraviolet rays from the sun and preventing them from reaching the earth, where they would cause damage to plants and increase the risk of skin cancer.

In the lower atmosphere, ozone is a health hazard and the prime constituent of urban smog. Scientists believe the main factor contributing to the spreading "ozone hole" is a family of industrial compounds known as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which include the coolant used in air conditioners and refrigerators.

The space agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said the hole may also have increased in size in 1992 due to the continued after-effects of the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

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Sarajevo quiet, but no sign of airlift

SARAJEVO (R) — Widespread fighting was reported across Bosnia-Herzegovina Wednesday, but Sarajevo was quiet as its trapped inhabitants waited in hope that the U.N. relief airlift might be about to restart.

A U.S. government official said Tuesday the airlift, suspended for nearly a month despite the desperate need of the 380,000 people in the besieged capital, was likely to resume before the weekend.

Radio Sarajevo repeatedly said the resumption was imminent, but U.N. officials at the airport said they had not been notified of any change in Wednesday.

Sarajevo Airport is in daily use by United Nations planes carrying equipment, and personnel.

But the 19 nations which operated the air bridge until it was suspended on Sept. 3 following the shooting down of an Italian relief plane have been reluctant to restart it without stronger security guarantees.

Their fears were reinforced by an incident in Croatia on Tuesday when two U.N. helicopters came under anti-aircraft fire.

The shooting was apparently unauthorised and the soldier responsible has been arrested by Croatian authorities. But it was a reminder that the former Yugoslav republics are full of guns, many of them under little central control.

Sarajevo's need for aid increases daily. Stocks of food held by relief agencies are almost exhausted and inhabitants have been without electricity or running water for the past three days.

The radio, adding to public feeling against the U.N. presence, told listeners the power was still off because U.N. troops had declined to protect engineers trying to repair supply lines.

Apart from a few mortar bombs in northern areas, Sarajevo was unusually quiet

Wednesday, and the army command centre had no new reports on fighting elsewhere.

But Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency carried extensive reports from the Serbian side.

It said fighting had flared up in southwest Herzegovina, near Croatia's Adriatic coast, and that mortars, tanks and all kinds of small arms had been in use along a line between Capljina and Mostar and the surrounding region.

There had been exchanges of fire on the Trebinje front and between Mostar and Nevesinje, it said.

Further east, in the regions of Kalinovik, Foca, Gorazde and Visegrad, the Serb command said Muslim forces had tried to recapture positions lost in battles in previous days, but failed.

Tanjug also spoke of fierce fighting in the north around Bosanski Brod and Gradacac and the central town of Maglaj, but gave no details.

The reports, all unconfirmed, were in line with recent indications that the Serbs are trying to consolidate their supply-lines and secure their gains before the winter makes movement difficult and reduces the scale of fighting.

Hopes of a truce before winter have been raised by the current spate of diplomatic contacts between leaders of the warring sides.

Earlier this week Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic met international peace mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference, and made a provisional ceasefire offer. He then went to Zagreb for talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

Mr. Tudjman and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic are now in Geneva. Their meetings with the negotiators are likely to concentrate on the Croatian issue, but Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is also in the Swiss city, and his deputy told reporters

Tuesday. "There will be something important from Dr. Karadzic's visit to Geneva. You will see."

U.N. relief officials said Tuesday up to 400,000 people in former Yugoslavia could die from cold and hunger this winter without more aid and a new airlift to Bosnia.

The number of dead would dwarf the total of 10,000 people killed in Bosnia since fighting started last April over the vote by Croats and Muslims in the republic to declare their independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

But peace mediators saw a glimmer of hope for peace talks to become serious over the next few weeks because of new willingness from warring factions in former Yugoslavia to discuss a range of issues.

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